



City of Homer

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Homer Public Library

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Memorandum 21-066

TO: Mayor Castner and Homer City Council
THROUGH: Robert Dumouchel, City Manager
FROM: David Berry, Library Director
DATE: March 1, 2021
SUBJECT: Citywide Server Upgrades

The City of Homer hosts most of its electronic records on a set of servers spread across departments throughout the City. The servers are the foundation for nearly all the City's operations—they store files, serve public-facing websites and handle all remote-work operations. They also preserve official records and provide backups in case of data theft or loss.

The servers have been in need of upgrading for some time. Their performance storage capacity is 90-95% full and the hardware is approaching the end of its lifespan. The IT division recommends expanding the existing capacity from its current 8 TB to 12 TB, modernizing the hardware and upgrading the operating software to present-day standards. The expected lifespan for new equipment is approximately 5 years.

In Ord. 19-51(A) the City Council adopted the budget for FY 2020/2021 and included \$50,000 to fund upgrades and replacements to City servers. This replacement project was placed on hold, along with other capital projects, by Resolution 20-050. While staff made their best effort to accurately estimate the cost of server replacements in 2019, the real cost is now estimated to be approximately \$75,000. Factors such as supply chain disruptions caused by COVID-19 and new security requirements driven by U.S.-China relations have driven up prices over the last two years. If the servers are replaced soon, the additional storage capacity should last the City until roughly 2026, based upon current usage statistics.

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt an ordinance appropriating an additional \$25,000 in total funding from the Information Systems CARMA Fund for upgrades to the departmental servers, with the goal of beginning work as soon as possible.