



## City of Homer

[www.cityofhomer-ak.gov](http://www.cityofhomer-ak.gov)

## Police Department

625 Grubstake Avenue  
Homer, Alaska 99603

[police@cityofhomer-ak.gov](mailto:police@cityofhomer-ak.gov)

(p) 907-235-3150

(f) 907-235-3151/ 907-226-3009

### MEMORANDUM 21-179

DATE: 10-8-2021

FROM: Chief Robl

TO: City Manager Dumouchel

SUBJ: Grant Acceptance / Sole Source Purchase Approval

We have received a grant from Homeland Security to fund the purchase of a bi-directional amplifier system for the Police Station and two microwave links. These items will make significant improvements to our public safety radio system. The grant provides full funding for these projects. I request we obtain council permission to accept these grants and approve a sole source purchase for the associated equipment items and the installation to ProComm Alaska.

After moving into our new police station we discovered our radio signal strength inside of the building to be very low. This results in officers inside of the building to not receive radio transmissions on their portable radios. An officer can be just about anywhere within the building and not receive a dispatch to a 911 call or hear another officers call for help. The most effective, safe and reliable way to address this situation is to install a bi-directional amplifier system within the building which will amplify the radio signal strength to ensure effective and complete two way radio communications regardless of the officers' location.

Our public safety radio system essentially consists of our dispatch center and two outlying repeater sites. One of the sites is on the Homer Spit and the other is on Skyline Drive. Both sites contain repeaters for the police department and the fire department. For optimum system performance, radio signals should go back and forth between dispatch and the repeaters via microwave links with enough bandwidth to handle radio control and full data, video and audio signal transmission. Currently, one of our microwave links is old and does not provide the bandwidth we need. We do not have a microwave link to the second site and are only able to link with it via direct radio transmissions thereby severely restricting the capabilities of the site. Installing new microwave links with IP radio gateways will provide us with full system capability through all of our repeaters.

We request to sole source these projects to ProComm Alaska. Our entire radio system is built with Motorola brand equipment. ProComm is the only Motorola dealer in the state with fully trained and certified technicians meeting FCC and APCO requirements. ProComm has furnished and installed all of our equipment and they do all of our annual preventative maintenance and tuning. ProComm is uniquely qualified to complete these two projects for us and is the only radio service provider in Alaska capable of doing so and successfully integrating the new equipment into our existing system.