



City of Homer

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Police Department

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Memorandum 22-068

TO: Rob Dumouchel, City Manager
FROM: Chief Robl
DATE: April 7, 2022
SUBJECT: Funding Request, Bi-Directional Amplifier

The Police Department has an urgent need for a Bi-Directional Amplifier System. On duty officers typically have their portable radios turned on constantly to monitor radio traffic, listening for dispatches to calls for service and officers in the field requesting assistance. The radio signal strength inside of our building is very poor. Depending on where officers are at in the building officers hear very little or none of the radio traffic being broadcast.

Testing by our radio technicians reveals that our new stations location relative to our repeater sites combined with the building's design and radio signal anomalies in the Homer area is causing the problem. The best solution has been determined to be a Bi-Directional Amplifier System. This system will be installed inside of the building and will have several small antennas placed throughout the building. It will amplify and rebroadcast radio signals ensuring complete portable radio coverage throughout the building.

I obtained cost estimates for the new system in the fall of 2020. The estimates came in at \$101,556. We applied for grant to fund this project in January of 2021. The grant was awarded for the full amount of the estimates in October of 2021. We just completed complying with the grant conditions and received purchase authority from Homeland Security to order the system two weeks ago. During the time passage since I received the initial estimates the cost of the system has increased by \$18,712. Cost increases are due to supply disruptions in the electronics industry and inflation. I request funding for the additional \$18,712 to complete this project from CARMA.