TO: Rob Dumouchel, City Manager
FROM: Mark Kirko, Fire Chief
DATE: August 24, 2022
SUBJECT: Skyline Fire Department Access

My goal is to provide unobstructed access to the Skyline fire station in order to improve emergency response capabilities from that station. The fire department was built on the footprint of an old water department building after the new water department facility was constructed. The new fire station was built with the concept of future growth in the Skyline area and to improve Homer area ISO ratings.

With the new fire station being on the water department campus, security fencing was already in place and was not considered in how it would affect emergency response. We are seeing that the current gate access is too small which is creating a hazard to road traffic and delaying response times. During winter months the gate opening is hampered by snow accumulation reducing the opening size causing further delays in response.

Having a locked gate is also a problem for volunteer responders living in that area because they can’t access the property and get to the emergency response equipment when it’s needed.

I am proposing to use the existing fencing and redirect it in a way that allows access to the fire station while still providing the required security of the water department facilities and grounds.

The company that installed the original fencing has been contacted and is providing a summary of required work and materials needed along with a quote.

My intent is to complete this project before winter to avoid any further delays in emergency response from that station.
The existing security fencing was already in place when the fire station was built on the Water Treatment Plant Campus however the current layout creates access challenges, particularly during the winter months when there is snow accumulation.

It would be in the City’s best interest to modify the existing security fencing to better accommodate access to the fire station by volunteers and still provide necessary security to the Water Treatment Plant.