



MEMORANDUM

Ordinance 23-56, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Extending the Allocation for the Upgrade of the City's Microwave Wide Area Network through June 30, 2024. City Manager/Chief Technology Officer.

Item Type: Backup Memorandum
Prepared For: Mayor Castner and Homer City Council
Date: November 1, 2023
From: Bill Jirsa, Chief Technology Officer
Through: Rob Dumouchel, City Manager

The City of Homer's routed network connects the City's departments and transmits data and phone communications to support the City's basic operations. The network includes almost two dozen private point to point microwave links operated by the City's IT team.

Ordinance 18-44(A) recognized the importance of upgrading the communications network with a \$130,000 investment in equipment that would increase network capacity to meet demand and build greater redundancy into the network to ensure improved availability. After initial delays due to the pandemic and supply chain issues, Ordinance 21-66 extended the availability of the funds to December 31, 2023.

It was not until 2023 after the IT team increased staff to three technicians that the team was able to achieve significant progress with the complex task of designing and implementing the Licensed Microwave links. As of the end of October, the project is on track with the original budget, but a certain amount of work will not be complete by the end of the calendar year.

Forty-five percent of link replacements are complete and presently in service. Of the remaining work, materials for another 20% are on-site and installation work is in progress. Finally, for the last third of the microwave links, the materials are in the procurement process, and will not likely be received before the current deadline.

RECOMMENDATION: Extend the deadline until June 30, 2024 for the funds associated with Ordinance 18-44(A) Licensed Microwave WAN - \$130,000.