



MEMORANDUM

Ordinance 24-15, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Amending the FY24 Capital Budget by Accepting and Appropriating an FY22 State and Local Cybersecurity Grant (SLCGP) Award in the Amount of \$50,000 from the Alaska Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management for the Completion of a Cybersecurity Risk Assessment. City Manager/Chief Technology Officer.

Item Type: Backup Memorandum
Prepared For: Mayor and City Council
Date: January 30, 2024
From: Bill Jirsa, Chief Technology Officer
Through: Rob Dumouchel, City Manager

I am pleased to report that the City has been awarded a FY2022 State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program award from the Alaska Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management in the amount of \$50,000 to conduct a comprehensive cybersecurity risk assessment.

Technology plays an increasingly important role in municipal operations and brings great efficiency and productivity to delivering City services. At the same time, though, the proliferation of the links between physical and digital systems increases the “attack surface” available to potential adversaries working remotely around the world and increases the kinds of risks that the City of Homer must manage. Recent cyberattacks such as the breach of small water utilities in Texas and Pennsylvania demonstrate that there’s no such thing as a small town on the internet.

Performing a comprehensive cybersecurity risk assessment is an important first step to establish a strong cybersecurity program. Although local IT teams may have a grasp on many of the threats, a formal assessment by cybersecurity experts serves as a structured method for prioritizing and addressing them in a risk management framework. This assessment not only establishes a baseline for ongoing enhancements but also positions the City to potentially receive future SLCGP funds for implementing cybersecurity improvements identified in the assessment. Accepting this grant funding would contribute significantly to the development of a robust cybersecurity program at the City of Homer.

Recommendation: Accept and appropriate the FY 2022 State Homeland Security and Emergency Management SLCGP Grant in the amount of \$50,000 for the purpose of contracting professional services to conduct a comprehensive Cybersecurity Risk Assessment in 2024.