



MEMORANDUM

Travel Authorization for Council Member Lord to attend a Lobbying Trip to Washington DC April 29-May 2, 2024

Item Type: Action Memorandum
Prepared For: Mayor Castner and Homer City Council
Date: April 8, 2024
From: Renee Krause, MMC, Acting City Clerk

The city's lobbyists, J&H Consultants are scheduled to be in Washington, D.C., at the end of April, 2024. This presents a valuable opportunity for the City of Homer to coordinate a trip to Washington, D.C., to collectively advocate on behalf of City projects and interests.

At the March 26, 2024 City Council meeting, Council agreed to entertain a travel authorization proposal to send Council Member Lord and a staff member to Washington, D.C., at the end of April to meet with members of Congress and relevant Federal agency representatives. The purpose of the trip is to discuss the importance of funding and support for the City's large Federal projects, including the Homer Harbor Navigational Improvements General Investigation, appropriations requests and Federal grant initiatives. Special Projects & Communications Coordinator Carroll will be the staff representative joining Councilmember Lord and J&H Consultants.

Cost estimates for travel include round trip airfare from Anchorage to Washington, D.C., at \$700 per person and lodging for two people at approximately \$1,000 for three nights: April 29 – May 2. Including travel to Anchorage, and per diem at \$58/day for four days, the approximate total cost without any additional night's stay is \$1,800 per person for a total travel estimate of \$3,600. An additional night lodging may be needed depending on flight schedules and final meeting schedule. Existing funds in the FY24 operating budget under the lobbying line items in the City Council for Council Member Lord and City Manager's budget for Special Projects Coordinator Carroll are sufficient to cover these travel costs.

Additional cost will be approximately \$1,200 to cover travel expense of one of our lobbyists, which is also covered within our FY24 lobbying budget.

Recommendation: Approve travel for Council Member Lord to travel to Washington, D.C., at the end of April through the beginning of May, 2024.