MEMORANDUM

Ordinance 24-63, Accepting and Appropriating an FY 2024 State Homeland Security Program Grant in the Amount of $330,628 from the DHS&EM to Purchase A New Radio Console Dispatch System and a Virtual Law Enforcement Training System for the Homer Police Department, Authorizing a Sole Source Request to Contract with ProComm Alaska for the Radio Console Dispatch System. City Manager/Police Chief.

Item Type:	Backup Memorandum
Prepared For:	Mayor Castner and City Council
Date:	November 4, 2024
From:	Mark Robl, Chief of Police
Through:	Melissa Jacobsen, City Manager

We recently received notification that our grant applications for this year's Homeland Security Grant Program have been approved. We have been awarded $240,128 to replace our Dispatch Console Systems and an additional $90,500 to fund the purchase of a Virtual Law Enforcement Training System. The amount awarded will fully fund all of the costs for these projects. I request we obtain Council permission to accept these funds and provide sole source purchase authorization to ProComm Alaska for the Dispatch Console replacements.

The operating system controlling our three dispatch consoles is obsolete. The Motorola equipment it consists of is no longer supported by Motorola. Some of the critical parts for this system are no longer available. Should one or two of these items fail, this system would be inoperable. Work around's for the failure could be impossible. It is imperative we upgrade the operating system. The new console system can easily be upgraded or expanded and has the ability to be remotely controlled if the need ever arises.

The Virtual Law Enforcement Training system will be used to teach use of force techniques to officers. With it we can train officers to escalate their use of force in a given situation and deescalate it as needed. The system consists of virtual reality headsets worn by the officers, various use of force tools that integrate with the system and a computer. The program can be modified to include our use of force policy requirements, our use of force tools, state laws and changes to those laws. Virtual reality use of force training is widely recognized as the most effective way to train officers in this critical area and monitor the effectiveness of our use of force training.