



MEMORANDUM

Ordinance 25-51, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Amending the FY 26 Capital Budget by Appropriating \$30,000 from the Port Reserves Fund for an Engineering Assessment of the Homer Harbor Steel Grid. City Manager/Port Director.

Item Type: Back Up Memorandum
Prepared For: Mayor Lord and Homer City Council
Date: July 7, 2025
From: Bryan Hawkins, Port Director
Through: Melissa Jacobsen, City Manager

The Steel Grid in the Homer Harbor has been out of service for the past two years. This decision was made by staff following a low tide inspection that revealed significant structural damage due to corrosion. The grid, estimated to be 50 years old, show substantial signs of degradation. Particularly to its support structure, posing a potential safety risk to the vessels.

Port and Harbor Advisory Commission

At the request of the Port Commission, staff have initiated steps to formally evaluate the condition of the Steel Grid. The goals of this evaluation include:

- Determining whether the existing structure is usable in any capacity
- Assessing if the grid is completely unsafe for continued use
- Estimating the cost of replacement
- Exploring creative or alternative options for restoring the facility to meet safe working load requirements, particularly for larger vessels needing inspection and minor hull maintenance

Funding

Staff recommends using funds from the Port and Harbor Reserve to fund the cost of this evaluation.

Recommendation

Staff respectfully requests approval for funding to hire an engineer to complete the evaluation of the Steel Grid.