

CITY OF PALMER ACTION MEMORANDUM No. 08-066

SUBJECT: Accept and Appropriate a Grant from the State of Alaska Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management in the Amount of \$22,000 for Re-writing the City of Palmer Emergency Operations Plan

AGENDA OF: October 28, 2008

Accepted

Approved for presentation by B. B. Allen, City Manager _____

Route To:	Department/Individual:	Initials:	Remarks:
X	Originator – Director of Public Safety	JCP	
X	City Clerk	JM	
X	City Attorney		
	Director of Public Safety		
X	Director of Administration		
	Director of Community Services		
	Director of Public Works		

Attachment(s):

Finance Director's Certification of Funds:

	No fiscal impact.	
	Funds are budgeted from this account number:	
X	Funds are not budgeted. Budget modification is required. Affected account number:	08 xxxx

Finance Director Signature: _____

Summary statement:

The City of Palmer has been awarded \$22,000 in Homeland Security grant monies for the purpose of re-writing the City's Emergency Operations Plan (EOP). The City's existing plan was adopted in September 2006. The plan was written by a consultant who had written the old, bulky, and outdated EOP for the Matanuska-Susitna Borough. The City's 2006 EOP was written to allow Palmer emergency responders (fire, police, public works) to be able to operate in concert with the Matanuska-Susitna Borough's emergency responders (fire, EMS).

However, in 2008, the Borough adopted a new and completely re-written EOP. This new plan was accepted by the Borough Assembly in June 2008. This new Borough EOP has highlighted the need for the City of Palmer to re-write its EOP, which is out of date and "off the shelf". There are distinct advantages for the borough and city to have EOPs which are, at least, not in conflict with each other—such as providing streamlined instructions for Emergency Operations Center workers (populated by City of Palmer and borough employees and representatives); and greater facility in training and in joint exercises.

The City helps staff the Borough Emergency Operations Center (EOC) in emergency management situations, particularly with our EMS/Fire dispatchers. We are working toward enhancing cooperation between our trained staff and borough trained staff, to enable City and Borough staff to work together seamlessly in an EOC. The City's current plan contains serious inaccuracies—such as giving instructions on how the City's fire responders can handle a serious hazardous material spill. The Fire Chief and his command staff had little or no input into the current city EOP, and they have no capability of cleanup in a hazardous materials spill scenario. The new EOP will be accurate, readable, and easily implemented. The new EOP will be a product that has input from the rank and file emergency responder, and from the command staff of Public Safety, Public Works, the City Clerk, and Administration. In short, the new EOP will be responsive to our needs, accurate and accessible. It will be a tool which reflects the recent restructuring of governmental operations in the City of Palmer.

Administration recommendation: Approve action memorandum 08-066.