

Introduced by: Pete Williams, Acting City Manager
Date: November 8, 2016
Action: Passed
Vote: 7-0

CITY OF BETHEL

Resolution # 16-32

CITY OF BETHEL PRIORITIES FOR THE FY 2018 STATE OF ALASKA CAPITAL BUDGET

WHEREAS, the City of Bethel is proactively pursuing funding strategies with Federal and State agencies as well as private funding sources;

WHEREAS, the City partners with other entities, such as the local tribe, Orutsararmuit Native Council, to work collaboratively for residents' needs;

WHEREAS, Bethel has had several recent community needs successfully funded by collaborating with Federal, State, and Tribal entities, including the Sewer Lagoon Rehabilitation Project and Water and Sewer truck replacement;

WHEREAS, Bethel takes pride in self-sufficiency; Bethel City sales tax and the Port of Bethel generate revenue used to fund the City's operating budget and many major maintenance needs;

WHEREAS, in recent years, the City of Bethel raised its water and sewer subscription rate fees to fund capital depreciation and to better meet basic human health and sanitation needs;

WHEREAS, the community of Bethel takes its responsibility as a hub community for a region of 30,000 people seriously; many projects the City has championed benefit tens of thousands of Alaskans who do not reside in City limits;

WHEREAS, the Bethel City Council is a seven-member body elected by resident voters of Bethel to act in the best interest of the community and that intends to exhibit transparency, oversight, and accountability for all funds awarded through this request;

WHEREAS, the priorities established herein are rank-ordered and vital to the well-being of the community and municipality of Bethel;

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WHEREAS, a summary of the City of Bethel’s priorities and requested funding amounts are listed in the following table:

Four Priorities	Request
1. Institutional Corridor Water Delivery System – Phase 2	\$4,500,000
2. Emergency Response Ladder Truck – Fire	\$850,000
3. Road Around H-Marker Lake	\$1,820,752
4. Bethel Small Boat Harbor	\$2,500,000
TOTAL	\$9,670,752

#1 Institutional Corridor Water Delivery System–Phase 2 \$4,500,000
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WHEREAS, the State of Alaska provided the City of Bethel with \$7,000,000 from the FY 2014 Alaska Capital Budget to fund more than half of the Institutional Corridor Water Delivery System project, which left the City with a shortfall of \$4,500,000;

WHEREAS, the City worked with DOWL engineers to design the project, such that the project now requires less linear feet of pipe at less cost to accomplish the same number of institutional connections;

WHEREAS, once the entire project is completed, the City will receive a net gain from water sales to the institutions and three of the institutions will be able to close their water plants for good, eliminating the hardship of well management and proper water treatment.

#2 Emergency Response/Fire Ladder Truck \$850,000
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WHEREAS, the Bethel Fire Chief determined the Fire Department’s ladder truck no longer meets mission requirements, safety requirements or the needs of the community;

WHEREAS, the current Fire Department’s ladder truck is in poor condition after 36 years of continual service, and failed to achieve certification in each of the last three years;

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- WHEREAS,** parts and service for the 1980 ladder truck have become obsolete or exceedingly difficult to find, though significant repairs are needed;
- WHEREAS,** Bethel's ladder truck does not meet current NFPA, DOT, or EPA standards;
- WHEREAS,** the City of Bethel recently provided money for ambulance replacement and received numerous donations from individual citizens and private parties to self-fund a new ambulance; delivery of the ambulance is expected in the summer of 2017;
- WHEREAS,** the City of Bethel responded to two major fires in the last three years, as well as numerous smaller fires, and the last fire damaged the ladder truck, rendering it no longer operational.
- WHEREAS,** the Bethel Fire Department strives to comply with NFPA, DOT and EPA standards for the safety of its members and service for the citizens it protects;
- WHEREAS,** the community of Bethel is experiencing development of several buildings exceeding the reach of its current ladder truck;
- WHEREAS,** the City of Bethel needs a ladder truck capable of reaching the third floor of a building to rescue trapped or endangered building occupants;
- WHEREAS,** a ladder truck with greater reach and greater pumping capability will help to lower home insurance rates in Bethel;

#3	Road Around H-Marker Lake	\$1,820,752
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- WHEREAS,** the community of Bethel has been severely hampered by the closure of Tundra Ridge Road in 2008 because it broke the circuit, causing all traffic to flow in a "U" pattern from the State Highway to Ptarmigan Street;
- WHEREAS,** the City worked diligently with the State and private landowners to re-open the road, but after seven years, the impasse remains;
- WHEREAS,** the community continues to suffer in terms of increased response time for emergency response vehicles to reach the Tundra Ridge Subdivision and residents of the subdivision are enduring additional time and cost to get to work, to the store, to the airport, and other places;

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WHEREAS, the City's proposed solution is to construct a new gravel road around H-Marker Lake that will connect the public part of Tundra Ridge Road with Ptarmigan Street to complete the circuit again;

WHEREAS, the new road will follow the shortest route from existing road to existing road;

WHEREAS, the City of Bethel is willing and able to provide sand, heavy equipment, and personnel to assist in the development of the new road;

WHEREAS, a new road between the state highway and Ptarmigan Street is expected to save lives and reduce injuries as a result of faster emergency vehicle response times, less drive time to town, lower fuel cost, and reduced vehicle maintenance cost;

#4	Bethel Small Boat Harbor	\$2,500,000
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WHEREAS, the City of Bethel received funding from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Denali Commission, and State of Alaska for improvements to the Bethel Small Boat Harbor over the last five years;

WHEREAS, three sections of bank encompassing 1,300 feet are all that are left to improve with webbing and gravel in order to stabilize 100% of the banks, thereby reducing slough-off and the need for dredging;

WHEREAS, several culverts are needed to improve the parking lot and road access to the harbor;

WHEREAS, the Harbor allows Bethel residents easy, convenient, and inexpensive access to the Kuskokwim River for subsistence harvest of fish and game, access to fish camps, recreational uses, commercial fishing, commercial birding/guiding, wood gathering, and transportation to and from villages on the river;

WHEREAS, nearby villagers depend on the Harbor when they travel by boat to Bethel for medical appointments, vocational training, college attendance, conferences/workshops, government services, shopping, employment, air transportation to Anchorage and points beyond, and to visit friends and relatives;

WHEREAS, the Bethel Small Boat Harbor was officially designated a "harbor of refuge" by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and provides protection for small boaters from storms, high seas, and other natural hazards;

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WHEREAS, great strides have been made to improve the Harbor over the last five years and this project represents the final bank stabilization effort needed to complete the Harbor;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Bethel City Council hereby requests that the State of Alaska provide \$9,670,752 in its FY 2018 Capital Budget to fund the four priority projects described herein.

ENACTED THIS 8 DAY OF NOVEMBER 2016 BY A VOTE OF 7 IN FAVOR AND 0 OPPOSED.



Richard Robb, Mayor

ATTEST:



Lori Strickler, City Clerk