

**Agency: Commerce, Community and Economic Development****Grants to Municipalities (AS 37.05.315)****Grant Recipient: Homer****Federal Tax ID: 92-0030963****Project Title:****Project Type: Equipment and Materials**

# Homer - Fire Department Equipment Upgrades

**State Funding Requested: \$350,000****House District: Kenai Areawide (28-30)**

One-Time Need

**Brief Project Description:**

This project would fund the refurbishment of old fire fighting equipment including a fire engine, tanker, and fire carts for the Harbor and the purchase of a much needed ladder truck and wild land firefighting brush truck.

**Funding Plan:**

Total Project Cost:	\$1,500,000
Funding Already Secured:	(\$150,000)
FY2015 State Funding Request:	(\$350,000)
Project Deficit:	\$1,000,000

*Funding Details:*

*The City of Homer pledged a 10% match of \$150,000 in their FY2015 Capital Improvement Plan.*

**Detailed Project Description and Justification:**

The Homer Volunteer Fire Department is in need of a number of vehicle refurbishments and upgrades to be able to safely and efficiently protect the lives and property of Homer residents.

Refurbish Fire Engine 4: Fire Engine 4 could serve as a reserve engine if refurbished with a rebuilt pump, engine and driveline overhaul, and body work. The refurbished truck could be housed in the new Skyline Fire Station providing critical response capability to residents on the Homer hill. A reserve fire engine could help Homer qualify for an improved ISO rating, benefiting all households through reduced homeowner insurance costs. Cost: \$150,000

Refurbish Tanker 2: The Homer Volunteer Fire Department's Tanker 2 is an E-One Pumper Tanker purchased in 1989. Tanker 2 is four years overdue for an overhaul. A new tanker-pumper would cost around \$800,000. A refurbishment is far less expensive. Refurbishment includes inspection and repair, if needed, of the fire pump, vehicle engine and other systems, converting obsolete lighting systems to LED, redesign and upgrade of the portable water tank compartment, replacement of corroded plumbing and valves, safety upgrades to the interior, and repair and repainting of the body. Cost: \$200,000

Quint (Ladder Truck): An Aerial truck will greatly enhance the City of Homer's firefighting capability. As Homer continues to grow and the size and complexity of buildings increases it is no longer safe or practical to fight fire from the ground or off of ground ladders (the Homer Volunteer Fire Department's tallest ground ladder is only 35 feet.) Large footprint and tall buildings (two stories or more) often require the use of elevated hose streams to fight fire effectively. HVFD has no ability to provide for elevated hose streams except off of ground ladders, which severely limits the application of water and endangers

the lives of firefighters. Aerial apparatus allow for the application of water to the interior of a building without placing firefighters in immediate danger. They also allow for the rescue of persons that become trapped in upper stories or on rooftops by fire or other incidents that impede the use of interior stairways. An aerial truck will increase fighting capability for large public buildings recently built (West Homer Elementary School, the Islands and Ocean Visitor Center, the Homer Ice Rink, and the South Peninsula Hospital Expansion), potentially lowering insurance rates for the community. Cost: \$800,000

**Brush/Wildland Firefighting Truck:** The Department's existing brush truck is a Ford F-350 that was converted to a brush unit in-house in 1990 by adding a manufactured tank, portable pump and a home-built tool storage compartment. The existing truck is severely deficient due to age-related wear and lack of capacity to handle the weight of firefighting equipment. A new Ford F-450/550 4x4 with wildland pump unit, tank, and tool compartments will provide critical and reliable service. In addition to fighting wildfires, the truck provides fire protection to areas inaccessible with traditional large fire apparatus due to poor road conditions during winter and break-up. Cost: \$120,000

**Harbor Fire Cart Replacement:** The Homer Harbor is outfitted with nine custom motorized fire carts that on multiple occasions have saved vessels and prevented the spreading of fire in the small boat harbor. These full response fire carts act as mini mobile fire hydrants and are capable of delivering AFFF foam to two attack lines at the same time. Unfortunately, the carts are over 20 years old and even though they are maintained with monthly and annual check-ups, many are failing due to the harsh marine environment. This project would purchase the pieces necessary to assemble nine new fire carts. Because of the special conditions in Alaska - harsh weather, extreme tides and the size of vessels - there is no pre-made fire cart that meet needs of the Homer Harbor. The City will assemble the fire carts using pieces that can be salvaged from the existing fire carts. Cost: \$230,000

### Project Timeline:

2015 - Purchase new equipment (Ladder Truck and Wild Land Brush Truck)

2015/2016 - Refurbish existing equipment (Fire Engine 4, Tanker 2, and Harbor Fire Carts)

### Entity Responsible for the Ongoing Operation and Maintenance of this Project:

City of Homer

### Grant Recipient Contact Information:

Name: Walt Wrede  
 Title: City Manager  
 Address: 491 E. Pioneer Ave.  
 Homer, Alaska 99603  
 Phone Number: (907)235-8121  
 Email: wwrede@ci.homer.ak.us

Has this project been through a public review process at the local level and is it a community priority?  Yes  No



## 4. Fire Department Equipment Upgrades

---

**Project Description & Benefit:** The Homer Volunteer Fire Department is in need of a number of vehicle refurbishments and upgrades to be able to safely and efficiently protect the lives and property of Homer residents.

**Refurbish Fire Engine 4:** Fire Engine 4 could serve as a reserve engine if refurbished with a rebuilt pump, engine and driveline overhaul, and body work. The refurbished truck could be housed in the new Skyline Fire Station providing critical response capability to residents on the Homer hill. A reserve fire engine could help Homer qualify for an improved ISO rating, benefiting all households through reduced homeowner insurance costs. Cost: \$150,000

**Refurbish Tanker 2:** The Homer Volunteer Fire Department's Tanker 2 is an E-One Pumper Tanker purchased in 1989. Tanker 2 is four years overdue for an overhaul. A new tanker-pumper would cost around \$800,000. A refurbishment is far less expensive. Refurbishment includes inspection and repair, if needed, of the fire pump, vehicle engine and other systems, converting obsolete lighting systems to LED, redesign and upgrade of the portable water tank compartment, replacement of corroded plumbing and valves, safety upgrades to the interior, and repair and repainting of the body. Cost: \$200,000

**Quint (Ladder Truck):** An Aerial truck will greatly enhance the City of Homer's firefighting capability. As Homer continues to grow and the size and complexity of buildings increases it is no longer safe or practical to fight fire from the ground or off of ground ladders (the Homer Volunteer Fire Department's tallest ground ladder is only 35 feet.) Large footprint and tall buildings (two stories or more) often require the use of elevated hose streams to fight fire effectively. HVFD has no ability to provide for elevated hose streams except off of ground ladders, which severely limits the application of water and endangers the lives of firefighters. Aerial apparatus allow for the application of water to the interior of a building without placing firefighters in immediate danger. They also allow for the rescue of persons that become trapped in upper stories or on rooftops by fire or other incidents that impede the use of interior stairways. An aerial truck will increase fighting capability for large public buildings recently built (West Homer Elementary School, the Islands and Ocean Visitor Center, the Homer Ice Rink, and the South Peninsula Hospital Expansion), potentially lowering insurance rates for the community. Cost: \$800,000

**Brush/Wildland Firefighting Truck:** The Department's existing brush truck is a Ford F-350 that was converted to a brush unit in-house in 1990 by adding a manufactured tank, portable pump and a home-built tool storage compartment. The existing truck is severely deficient due to age-related wear and lack of capacity to handle the weight of firefighting equipment. A new Ford F-450/550 4x4 with wildland pump unit, tank, and tool compartments will provide critical and reliable service. In addition to fighting wildfires, the truck provides fire protection to areas inaccessible with traditional large fire apparatus due to poor road conditions during winter and break-up. Cost: \$120,000

**Harbor Fire Cart Replacement:** The Homer Harbor is outfitted with nine custom motorized fire carts that on multiple occasions have saved vessels and prevented the spreading of fire in the small boat harbor. These full response fire carts act as mini mobile fire hydrants and are capable of delivering AFFF foam to two attack lines at the same time. Unfortunately, the carts are over 20 years old and even though they are maintained with monthly and annual check-ups, many are failing due to the harsh marine environment. This project would purchase the pieces necessary to assemble nine new fire carts. Because of the special conditions in Alaska - harsh weather, extreme tides and the size of vessels - there is no pre-made fire cart that meet needs of the Homer Harbor. The City will assemble the fire carts using pieces that can be salvaged from the existing fire carts. Cost: \$230,000

Total Project Cost: \$1,500,000

**State Request FY2015:** \$1,350,000  
(City of Homer 10% Match: \$150,000)



A ladder truck like the one shown here will increase firefighting capability, firefighter safety, and potentially reduce insurance rates for homeowners.

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31  
32  
33  
34  
35  
36  
37  
38  
39  
40  
41  
42  
43  
44

**CITY OF HOMER  
HOMER, ALASKA**

Mayor/City Council

**RESOLUTION 13-087(A)**

A RESOLUTION OF THE HOMER CITY COUNCIL ADOPTING THE  
2014-2019 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN AND ESTABLISHING  
CAPITAL PROJECT LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES FOR FISCAL YEAR  
2015.

WHEREAS, Duly published hearings were held on August 26 and September 9, 2013 in order to obtain public comments on capital improvement projects and legislative priorities; and

WHEREAS, The Council received comments from all of the Commissions and held an all day Worksession on August 17, 2013; and

WHEREAS, It is the intent of the City Council to provide the Governor, the State Legislature, State agencies, the Alaska Congressional Delegation, and other potential funding sources with adequate information regarding the City's capital project funding needs.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of Homer, Alaska, that the "City of Homer Capital Improvement Plan 2014-2019" is hereby adopted as the official 6-year capital improvement plan for the City of Homer.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the following capital improvement projects are identified as priorities for the FY 2015 State Legislative Request:

1. Water Storage/Distribution Improvements
2. Public Safety Building
3. Harbor Sheet Pile Loading Dock
4. Fire Department Equipment Upgrades
5. East to West Transportation Corridor


BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that projects for the FY 2015 Federal Legislative Request will be:

1. Deep Water/Cruise Ship Dock Expansion, Phase 1
2. East Boat Harbor


BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the City Manager is hereby instructed to advise the appropriate State and Federal representatives and personnel of the City's FY 2015 capital project priorities and take appropriate steps to provide necessary background information.

45 PASSED AND ADOPTED by a duly constituted quorum of the City Council for the City of  
46 Homer on this 9<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2013.

47 CITY OF HOMER

48  
49  
50   
51 MARY E. WYTHE, MAYOR

52  
53 ATTEST:

54   
55  
56 \_\_\_\_\_  
57 JO JOHNSON, MMC, CITY CLERK

58  
59 Fiscal Note: N/A

60