

Agency: Commerce, Community and Economic Development

Grants to Municipalities (AS 37.05.315)

Grant Recipient: Bethel

Federal Tax ID: 926001644

Project Title:

Project Type: Equipment and Materials

Bethel - Dust Control and Road Stabilization Measures

State Funding Requested: \$2,440,000
One-Time Need

House District: 38 / S

Brief Project Description:

Purchase D1 gravel, water spray truck, calcium chloride, and various emulsifiers in an effort to control dust on the City's 17 miles of gravel roads.

Funding Plan:

Total Project Cost:	\$2,440,000
Funding Already Secured:	(\$0)
FY2025 State Funding Request:	(\$2,440,000)
Project Deficit:	\$0

Funding Details:
 The City was awarded Federal Earmark #3718 in the amount of \$1.5 million for dust control in 2009. The City was able to spend very little on dust control after the Alaska Dept. of Transportation and Public Facilities subtracted City cash match from the grant award to pay for highway repaving in Bethel.

Detailed Project Description and Justification:

Use the City's procurement code to purchase \$2,000,000 worth of D1 "sharp" gravel, a \$190,000 water spray truck, \$150,000 in emulsifiers, and \$100,000 in calcium chloride. The City will use its graders, dump trucks, bull dozers, front-end loaders, compactors, and other equipment and trained CDL-certified drivers to perform the applications of these materials to City streets.

The City has the responsibility of controlling dust on 17 miles of gravel roads in Bethel and the parking lots and driveways for its buildings. Airborne dust is one Bethel environmental hazard that affects all residents who drive, walk, and live on or near gravel roadways.

The City owns the dump trucks, dozers, graders, sanders, and other heavy equipment necessary to move, mix, and spread the calcium chloride and gravel to the road surface. The City has been maintaining gravel roads in Bethel for over 50 years. The City Shop yard is a great storage area for the crushed gravel.

The application of gravel, calcium chloride, and water to the City's streets causes the road surface to harden up like cement for a time and suppress airborne dust. The gravel will stay in the roadbed for years before additional applications are needed. By reducing airborne dust, the City will make it safer for people to live and breathe in Bethel, especially individuals with respiratory ailments.

For use by Co-chair Staff Only:

\$1,200,000
Approved

12:20 PM 6/14/2024

Project Timeline:

August 15, 2023 - City and State sign grant agreement.
 September 30, 2023 - City issues Request for Bids documents to make purchases.
 November 9, 2023 - City Council approves contracts for purchases.
 November 10, 2023 - September 30, 2024 - All materials and new water spray truck arrive in Bethel by barge.
 October 15, 2022 - City closes grant.

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

Public Works Department - Property Maintenance Division

Grant Recipient Contact Information:

Name: Kristi McConnachie
 Title: Senior Accountant/City of Bethel
 Address: PO Box 1388, 300 State Highway
 Bethel, Alaska 99559
 Phone Number: (907)545-7332
 Email: KMcConnachie@carmenjacksoncpa.com

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

For use by Co-chair Staff Only:

12:20 PM 6/14/2024

City of Bethel

\$2,450,000 Needed for Dust Control Measures



Project Description

Purchase gravel, calcium chloride, hydroseeding, and a new water spray truck.

Resident Benefits

- Less airborne dust along streets for pedestrians, bicyclists, four-wheeler riders.
- Reduced incidences of dust-induced respiratory ailments.
- Increased visibility and therefore, safer road conditions.
- Greater success in employee recruitment and retention as quality of life is increased.
- Healthier community; less sick days.

City Match

- City will use its personnel and heavy equipment to apply calcium chloride, water, and gravel to harden the roads in Bethel.
- City will hire a company to apply hydroseed to the road shoulders to reduce airborne dust.
- City will transport the equipment and calcium chloride from the City Dock to the Streets and Roads Division Shop.

City of Bethel

300 State Highway
P.O. Box 1388
Bethel , Alaska 99559

Peter Williams, City Manager

Phone: 907-543-1373
Fax: 907-543-1394
Email: pwilliams@cityofbethel.net



Introduced by: Pete Williams, City Manager
Date: January 10, 2023
Action: Passed
Vote: 7-0

CITY OF BETHEL

Resolution # 23-01

CITY OF BETHEL PRIORITIES FOR THE SFY 2024 STATE OF ALASKA CAPITAL BUDGET

- WHEREAS,** the City of Bethel is proactively pursuing funds from Federal and State agencies, as well as private funding sources;
- WHEREAS,** the City partners with other entities, such as the local tribe, Orutsararmiut Native Council, to work collaboratively to meet resident and visitor needs;
- WHEREAS,** Bethel City government relies on various taxes and interest, charges for services, and licenses/permit fees to pay for major maintenance needs;
- WHEREAS,** City of Bethel water and sewer systems have been in the black for eight years due to the annual 3% rate increase required by ordinance, water and sewer subscription rate fee collections, and short-lived asset funds set aside for repairs;
- WHEREAS,** as a hub community for 30,000 people living in the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta region, the City of Bethel often supports projects and expenditures that benefit tens of thousands of Alaskans who do not reside in Bethel 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 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;
- WHEREAS,** a summary of the City of Bethel's priorities and requested funding amounts are listed in the following table:

Introduced by: Pete Williams, City Manager
 Date: January 10, 2023
 Action: Passed
 Vote: 7-0

City of Bethel Priorities	Request
1. New Public Works Building	\$38,000,000
2. Public Safety Communication Tower	\$500,000
3. Yukon Kuskokwim Fitness Center Gym and Track	\$10,500,000
4. Water Main Extension and Water Distribution Center	\$15,548,000
5. Dust Control Road Stabilization Measures	\$2,450,000
TOTAL	\$66,998,000

#1	New Public Works Building	\$38,000,000
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WHEREAS, the City of Bethel relies on its 29,000 square foot Public Works Building to house 12 water and sewer haul trucks, provide a full-service mechanic shop for the repair of gasoline and diesel vehicles (heavy equipment), storage and mechanic space for the Streets and Roads Division, a Property Maintenance Shop and storage area, and administrative offices;

WHEREAS, the Public Works Building was constructed in 1982 on creosote-soaked wood pilings and has exceeded its 30-year life expectancy;

WHEREAS, the 29,000 square foot building was constructed for a community of Bethel that contained 3,595 people living in 1,000 households on 15 miles of road;

WHEREAS, today, the City serves 6,362 people living in 1,920 households on 36 miles of roads--almost double the conditions found in 1983;

WHEREAS, BBFM Engineers, Inc. performed a structural and condition assessment on the Public Works Building in July 2019 and determined that some of the beam-to-girder connectors under the building have failed and "can no longer be relied upon to safely support vehicle loads;"

WHEREAS, after the glulam beams and girders supporting the floor were tested for rot and decay, BBFM engineers Troy Feller and Greg Latreille, concluded that 120 metal hangers, 12 glulam beams, and 5 girders should be repaired, replaced, or reinforced in the next 1-2 years;

WHEREAS, the cost of the fixes recommended in the BBFM report could be as high as \$7 million and not fix everything long-term;

Introduced by: Pete Williams, City Manager
Date: January 10, 2023
Action: Passed
Vote: 7-0

WHEREAS, the City has poured a vast amount of funding into the building over the last ten years, including a \$1.5 million floor repair, a \$1 million boiler purchase and installation, and \$1.2 million in summer 2021 to purchase and install a new backup generator and performed the immediate fixes recommended in the BBFM report;

WHEREAS, City municipal engineer Chase Nelson recommends in a memorandum dated October 4, 2019, that the City go forward with its plans to spend \$1.5 million to replace the failed connectors, glulam beams, and girders, but points out that "the City eventually will need to replace the full facility, and needs to consider this as a long-term priority;"

WHEREAS, the City needs a new 52,000 square foot Public Works Building to effectively and efficiently deliver hauled water and sewer services to a growing population, maintain its water and sewer piped infrastructure that serves 420 properties, maintain and repair 18 miles of gravel road, maintain its 28 City-owned buildings, and repair/maintain its fleet of heavy equipment, SUVs, and pickup trucks;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Bethel City Council hereby requests that the State of Alaska provide \$38,000,000 in its FY 2024 Capital Budget to fund a new Public Works Building for the City of Bethel;

#2	Public Safety Communication Tower	\$500,000
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WHEREAS, the City of Bethel rents tower space from the KYUK radio station for its public safety radio communication antennas attached to the KYUK Radio Station tower and houses its base station equipment inside a GCI communication shack at the base of the tower;

WHEREAS, the City pays \$1,700 a month to KYUK Radio Station for tower space and over \$400 a month to GCI to provide power and store its base station equipment in a heated shack;

WHEREAS, the City of Bethel believes that constructing a new communication tower on city police station property is the preferred option in order to be able to control, protect, and fully utilize the tower strictly for public safety communications;

Introduced by: Pete Williams, City Manager
Date: January 10, 2023
Action: Passed
Vote: 7-0

WHEREAS, in 2017, the City paid DOWL engineer firm to determine the best location for a communication tower on Bethel Police Station property and to design it;

WHEREAS, DOWL has since completed the design for a 90-foot-tall lattice tower supported by three pilings, as they recommended, and this design is ready for construction;

WHEREAS, the expected cost of constructing a new communication tower on police station property is estimated to be \$500,000;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Bethel City Council hereby requests that the State of Alaska provide \$500,000 in its FY 2024 Capital Budget to fund a new Public Works Building for the City of Bethel;

#3	Yukon Kuskokwim Fitness Center Gym and Track	\$10,500,000
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WHEREAS, the City of Bethel Multi-Use Recreation Facility Plan completed in 2005 identified a pool and full size gymnasium as the first and second most popular functions desired in a planned recreation facility;

WHEREAS, the City obtained Alaska State legislative capital funding in FY 2012 and constructed the Yukon Kuskokwim Fitness Center, a multipurpose recreational and training facility with a six-lane swimming pool, kiddie pool and slide, fitness center, exercise room, locker rooms, and concession area;

WHEREAS, the citizens of Bethel voted to increase sales taxes by one-half percent to generate approximately \$500,000 and recommended that the City use the money to operate and maintain the facility, which it has done since inception;

WHEREAS, the YK Fitness Center was constructed with boilers, air handling system, and other features conducive to the addition of a gymnasium;

WHEREAS, the gymnasiums in the high school and Gladys Jung Elementary school are used almost exclusively for student activities, leaving no gym time for adults, children, and families in the community;

WHEREAS, the City of Bethel paid DOWL to develop the YK Fitness Center Expansion Feasibility Study, which they completed in July 2022;

Introduced by: Pete Williams, City Manager
Date: January 10, 2023
Action: Passed
Vote: 7-0

WHEREAS, the feasibility study describes a competition size gymnasium with a running track on the second floor, sauna, two weight/game rooms, utility rooms, offices, and bathrooms at a cost of \$17.5 million;

WHEREAS, in light of the recent inflationary environment, DOWL engineer firm raised the estimated cost of the facility in 2025 dollars to \$20.5 million;

WHEREAS, in summer 2022, the City assisted the State of Alaska, Office of Management and Budget, to prepare a federal coronavirus infrastructure grant application that requested \$10 million for design and construction of the gymnasium expansion;

WHEREAS, the people of Bethel desperately need a gymnasium the whole community can use to play indoor sports like basketball, volleyball, soccer, field hockey, and ultimate frisbee and use the running track and rock climbing walls for fitness, recreation, and family fun time;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Bethel City Council hereby requests that the State of Alaska provide \$10,500,000 in its FY 2024 Capital Budget to fund a new gymnasium with a running track for the community of Bethel;

#4	Water Main Extension and Water Distribution Center	\$15,548,000
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WHEREAS, the City of Bethel truck drivers use six water haul trucks and six sewer haul trucks to carry water and evacuate sewage for 1,600 residential, commercial, and organizational facilities in Bethel six days a week;

WHEREAS, the City must fill its water haul trucks at one of two fill stations: Bethel Heights Water Treatment Plant or City Subdivision Water Treatment Plant;

WHEREAS, the City's two water treatment plants are located within a mile of each other, which makes the service less expensive to nearby subdivisions (City Subdivision, Hoffman Subdivision, Bethel Heights, and The Avenues), but exorbitant to serve far away subdivisions like Kasayuli, Larsen, Tundra Ridge, Ouivaq, and Ptarmigan Street;

WHEREAS, the cost to deliver water in Bethel is very high at \$29/1,000 gallons/mile;

WHEREAS, the high cost for water delivery is due to the limited amount of water that trucks can carry, the number of miles the trucks need to traverse to make deliveries and return to the water plant to refill, the time it takes for filling

Introduced by: Pete Williams, City Manager
Date: January 10, 2023
Action: Passed
Vote: 7-0

one truck at a time at City Subdivision Water Plant, the cost of diesel fuel for each vehicle, and the cost of wear and tear on each vehicle;

WHEREAS, on November 21, 2022, DOWL engineer firm completed a 90% preliminary engineering report (PER) to provide a community-wide piped water and wastewater system that would pipe the 1,600 households;

Whereas, "Transitioning customers from haul to pipe services will enhance water and sanitation availability and reduce customer service fees and City maintenance costs" (90% complete PER, Page 1);

WHEREAS, Phase 1 described in the PER is the development of a water distribution center (tank) along Chief Eddie Hoffman Highway near the State Public Health building to create storage, pressure, and heat necessary to provide piped water to the Ciullkulek Subdivision in Phase 2, and to serve as a water truck fill center to reduce round-trip delivery distance to the western subdivisions;

WHEREAS, the site to be developed will include a 500,000 gallon water tank and a 2,000 square foot building containing pumps, filling equipment, and a boiler system;

WHEREAS, this project includes a 4,350 linear foot extension of the water main from the city's institutional corridor water line that is fed by the City Subdivision Water Treatment Plant;

WHEREAS, this project is a crucial primary step to provide residents of Bethel clean, unlimited water at a reduced monthly rate and at the same time, saving the city money in hauled water delivery and system maintenance costs;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Bethel City Council hereby requests that the State of Alaska provide \$15,548,000 in its FY 2024 Capital Budget to fund the Water Main Extension and Water Distribution Center project;

#5	Dust Control Road Stabilization Measures	\$2,450,000
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WHEREAS, the community of Bethel is plagued by airborne dust from its gravel roads, which cause harm to individuals through inhalation, ingestion, and contact with eyes, ears, and skin;

Introduced by: Pete Williams, City Manager
Date: January 10, 2023
Action: Passed
Vote: 7-0

WHEREAS, purchasing and applying several inches of D1 sharp-edged gravel to roads in Bethel helps compact dust and provide a conducive surface for motor vehicles;

WHEREAS, applications of calcium chloride and water to gravel roadways have proven to be effective dust control measures for Bethel, Alaska;

WHEREAS, the City wishes to purchase one new water spray truck to apply water to the dusty streets throughout the summer;

WHEREAS, the City must purchase and apply gravel and other emulsifiers in bulk quantities on its subdivision roads, which are currently underserved because the City has had to focus on its thoroughfares;

WHEREAS, the City has the heavy equipment, trained personnel, and operating costs in its budget to apply gravel, calcium chloride and other emulsifiers, and water to the City's roads, as needed;



WHEREAS, this project requires the purchase of \$2,000,000 of gravel, a \$190,000 water spray truck, \$150,000 to purchase several emulsifiers as part of a demonstration project, and \$100,000 worth of calcium chloride;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Bethel City Council hereby requests that the State of Alaska provide \$2,450,000 in its FY 2024 Capital Budget to fund the Dust Control Measures project;

ENACTED THIS 10th DAY OF JANUARY 2023 BY A VOTE OF 7 IN FAVOR AND 0 OPPOSED.

ATTEST:

Lori Strickler, City Clerk



Rose Henderson, Mayor

Introduced by: Pete Williams, City Manager
Date: October 12, 2021
Action: Passed
Vote: 7-0

CITY OF BETHEL

Resolution # 21-17

CITY OF BETHEL PRIORITIES FOR THE SFY 2023 STATE OF ALASKA CAPITAL BUDGET

WHEREAS, the City of Bethel is proactively pursuing funds from 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 to meet resident and visitor needs;

WHEREAS, Bethel City government relies on various taxes and interest, charges for services, and licenses/permit fees to pay for major maintenance needs;

WHEREAS, City of Bethel water and sewer systems have been in the black for six years due to the annual 3% rate increase required by ordinance, water and sewer subscription rate fee collections, and short-lived asset funds set aside for repairs;

WHEREAS, as a hub community for 30,000 people living in the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta region, the City of Bethel often supports projects and expenditures that 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 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;

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

Introduced by: Pete Williams, City Manager
 Date: October 12, 2021
 Action: Passed
 Vote: 7-0

City of Bethel Priorities	Request
1. New Public Works Building	\$36,400,000
2. Bethel Heights Water Loop A	\$9,024,803
3. Bethel Heights Water and Sewer Improvements	\$10,146,000
4. Yukon Kuskokwim Fitness Center Gym and Track	\$10,000,000
5. Dust Control Road Stabilization Measures	\$2,440,000
6. Bethel Heights Sewer Repairs	\$5,233,000
7. Water Pipes, Water Tank and Fill Station	\$7,870,600
TOTAL	\$81,114,403

#1	New Public Works Building	\$36,400,000
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WHEREAS, the City of Bethel relies on its 29,000 square foot Public Works Building to house water and sewer haul trucks, provide a full-service mechanic shop for the repair of gasoline and diesel vehicles (heavy equipment), storage and mechanic space for the Streets and Roads Division, a Property Maintenance Shop and storage area, administrative offices, and the City Planner’s office;

WHEREAS, the Public Works Building was constructed in 1982 on creosote-soaked wood pilings and has exceeded its 30 year life expectancy;

WHEREAS, the 29,000 square foot building was constructed for a community of Bethel that contained 3,595 people living in 1,000 households on 15 miles of road;

WHEREAS, today, the City serves 6,259 people living in 1,920 households on 36 miles of roads--almost double the conditions found in 1983;

WHEREAS, BBFM Engineers, Inc. performed a structural and condition assessment on the Public Works Building in July 2019 and determined that some of the beam-to-girder connectors under the building have failed and “can no longer be relied upon to safely support vehicle loads;”

WHEREAS, after the glulam beams and girders supporting the floor were tested for rot and decay, BBFM engineers Troy Feller and Greg Latreille, concluded that 120 metal hangers, 12 glulam beams, and 5 girders should be repaired, replaced, or reinforced in the next 1-2 years;

Introduced by: Pete Williams, City Manager
Date: October 12, 2021
Action: Passed
Vote: 7-0

WHEREAS, the cost of the fixes recommended in the BBFM report could be as high as \$7 million;

WHEREAS, the City has poured a vast amount of funding into the building over the last ten years, including a \$1.5 million floor repair, a \$1 million boiler installation, and is prepared to spend \$1.2 million in summer 2021 to purchase and install a new backup generator and perform the immediate fixes recommended in the BBFM report;

WHEREAS, in summarizing the BBFM report and serving as the City’s municipal engineer overseeing the assessment, Chase Nelson, recommends in a memorandum dated October 4, 2019, that the City go forward with its plans to spend \$1.5 million to replace the failed connectors, glulam beams, and girders, but points out that “the City eventually will need to replace the full facility, and needs to consider this as a long-term priority;”

WHEREAS, the City needs a new 52,000 square foot Public Works Building to effectively and efficiently deliver hauled water and sewer services to a growing population, maintain its water and sewer piped infrastructure that serves 420 properties, maintain and repair 18 miles of gravel road, maintain its 28 City-owned buildings, and repair/maintain its fleet of heavy equipment, SUVs, and pickup trucks;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Bethel City Council hereby requests that the State of Alaska provide \$36,400,000 in its FY 2022 Capital Budget to fund a new Public Works Building for the City of Bethel;

#2	Bethel Heights Water Loop A	\$9,024,803
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WHEREAS, Bethel Heights Water Loop A, constructed in 1977, currently serves 150 residential and commercial customers;

WHEREAS, Loop A is 20,700 linear feet and has more water customer connections than Loop B;

WHEREAS, the galvanized steel water pipes are eleven years past their 30-year lifespan;

WHEREAS, engineer studies reveal that interior pipe galvanization has worn off, causing rust to form, sediment to clog the filters of homeowners, blocked

Introduced by: Pete Williams, City Manager
Date: October 12, 2021
Action: Passed
Vote: 7-0

air valves, pipes to freeze when clogged, and brown water to be delivered occasionally to end-users;

WHEREAS, Engineers warned the City not to use its “high demand pump” to facilitate water flow to fire hydrants for fear that the rushing water from its use would cause a blow-out in the weakened pipe;

WHEREAS, the purchase and installation of HDPE pipe to replace Loop A and form Loop C would solve the problems identified for this section of Bethel Heights and last the community 50 years;

WHEREAS, the City needs a cash infusion to support this project because it is unable to tap Village Safe Water funds and United States Department of Agriculture funds for this project due to the lack of a dire sanitation need and the fact that the piped water is potable;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Bethel City Council hereby requests that the State of Alaska provide \$9,024,803 in its FY 2022 Capital Budget to fund the reconstruction of Loop A.

#3	Bethel Heights Water and Sewer Improvements	\$10,146,000
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WHEREAS, Engineer firm DOWL generated a Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) and Environmental Report (December 2019) that evaluated the water and sewer systems in Bethel Heights Subdivision in Bethel;

WHEREAS, the Report considered six alternatives and recommended the construction of C-Loop, extension of the sewer system, and completion of spot repairs;

WHEREAS, the original gravity-fed sewer main was constructed in 1977 and has exceeded its expected 40-year useful life;

WHEREAS, according to the PER, “the age of the system has resulted in tangibly reduced reliability and performance, comparatively high and increasing cost of O&M, and an overall reduction in the safety of the system;”

WHEREAS, the City filed noncompliance notifications with the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation during the last two winters for flushing open sections of frozen sewer pipe over the tundra—the only way to thaw the pipes;

Introduced by: Pete Williams, City Manager
Date: October 12, 2021
Action: Passed
Vote: 7-0

WHEREAS, the City of Bethel serves approximately 300 customers in Bethel Heights by piped water and sewer and 25 additional properties nearby are not connected to piped water and sewer, but are served by the truck haul system;

WHEREAS, the City has an opportunity to run new high density polyethylene water and sewer pipes to 25 homes in the Martina Oscar Subdivision adjacent to Bethel Heights and save \$200,000 a year in operation and maintenance;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Bethel City Council hereby requests that the State of Alaska provide \$10,146,000 in its FY 2022 Capital Budget to fund the construction of C-Loop and sewer system improvements in Bethel Heights.

#4	Yukon Kuskokwim Fitness Center Gym & Track	\$10,000,000
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WHEREAS, the City of Bethel Multi-Use Recreation Facility Plan completed in 2005 identified a pool and full size gymnasium as the first and second most popular functions in a planned recreation facility;

WHEREAS, the City obtained Alaska State legislative capital funding in FY 2012 and constructed the Yukon Kuskokwim Fitness Center, a multipurpose recreational and training facility with a pool, fitness center, exercise room, locker rooms, and concession area;

WHEREAS, the citizens of Bethel voted to increase sales taxes by one-half percent to generate approximately \$500,000 and recommended that the City use the money to operate and maintain the facility, which it has done since inception;

WHEREAS, the YK Fitness Center was constructed with boilers, air handling system, and other features conducive to the addition of a gymnasium;

WHEREAS, the City of Bethel is investing \$75,000 of its money to go out to bid to hire a consultant to complete a feasibility study to support the gymnasium;

WHEREAS, the gym in the high school and Gladys Jung Elementary school are used almost exclusively for student activities, leaving no gym time for adults, children, and families;

Introduced by: Pete Williams, City Manager
Date: October 12, 2021
Action: Passed
Vote: 7-0

WHEREAS, the community of Bethel desperately needs a gymnasium the whole community can use for basketball, volleyball, running, and indoor rock climbing;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Bethel City Council hereby requests that the State of Alaska provide \$10,000,000 in its FY 2022 Capital Budget to fund a new gymnasium and running track for the City of Bethel;

#5	Dust Control Road Stabilization Measures	\$2,440,000
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WHEREAS, the community of Bethel is plagued by airborne dust from its gravel roads, which cause harm to individuals through inhalation, ingestion, and contact with eyes, ears, and skin;

WHEREAS, purchasing and applying several inches of D1 sharp-edged gravel to roads in Bethel helps compact dust and provide a conducive surface for motor vehicles;

WHEREAS, applications of calcium chloride and water to gravel roadways have proven to be effective dust control measures for Bethel, Alaska;

WHEREAS, the City wishes to purchase one new water spray truck to apply water to the dusty streets throughout the summer;

WHEREAS, the City must purchase and apply gravel and other emulsifiers in bulk quantities on its subdivision roads, which are currently underserved because the City has had to focus on its thoroughfares;

WHEREAS, the City has the heavy equipment, trained personnel, and operating costs in its budget to apply gravel, calcium chloride and other emulsifiers, and water to the City's roads, as needed;

WHEREAS, this project requires the purchase of \$2,000,000 of gravel, a \$190,000 water spray truck, \$150,000 to purchase several emulsifiers as part of a demonstration project, and \$100,000 worth of calcium chloride;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Bethel City Council hereby requests that the State of Alaska provide \$2,440,000 in its FY 2022 Capital Budget to fund the Dust Control Measures project;

Introduced by: Pete Williams, City Manager
Date: October 12, 2021
Action: Passed
Vote: 7-0

#6	Bethel Heights Sewer Repairs	\$5,233,000
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WHEREAS, DOWL engineer firm is on contract with the City of Bethel and published a preliminary engineering report on the Bethel Heights Water Distribution and Sewer Collection System (March 2020);

WHEREAS, the report identifies critical piped sewer spot repairs to be completed as part of the recommended Alternative 3 at a cost of \$5,233,000;

WHEREAS, the repairs are needed to address gravity-fed sewer pipes that have succumb to undulating ground movement that caused sunken pilings to no longer maintain a positive drainage grade;

WHEREAS, during the winter months, pipe sewer sections freeze solid, requiring the City to break open frozen sewer pipe sections, flush the contents onto the tundra, and reattach the pipes;

WHEREAS, City Public Works Department utility maintenance personnel file noncompliance notifications with the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation each time a frozen sewer pipe is opened and thawed;

WHEREAS, repairs on the Bethel Heights sewer system include replacement of 3,600 linear feet of sewer main and 35 service line segments, and installation of additional pile supports;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Bethel City Council hereby requests that the State of Alaska provide \$5,233,000 in its FY 2022 Capital Budget to fund the Bethel Heights Sewer Repairs project;

#7	Water Pipes, Water Tank and Fill Station	\$7,870,600
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WHEREAS, the City of Bethel truck drivers use six water haul trucks and six sewer haul trucks to carry water and evacuate sewage for 1,600 residential, commercial, and organizational facilities in Bethel six days a week;

WHEREAS, the City must fill its water haul trucks at one of two fill stations: Bethel Heights Water Treatment Plant or City Subdivision Water Treatment Plant;

WHEREAS, the City's two water treatment plants are located within a mile of each other, which makes the service less expensive to nearby subdivisions (City

Introduced by: Pete Williams, City Manager
Date: October 12, 2021
Action: Passed
Vote: 7-0

Subdivision, Hoffman Subdivision, Bethel Heights, and The Avenues), but exorbitant to serve far away subdivisions like Kasayuli, Larsen, Tundra Ridge, Ouivaq, and Ptarmigan Street;

WHEREAS, the cost to deliver water in Bethel is very high at \$29/1,000 gallons/mile;

WHEREAS, the high cost for water delivery is due to the limited amount of water that trucks can carry, the number of miles the trucks need to traverse to make deliveries and return to the water plant to refill, the time it takes for filling one truck at a time at City Subdivision Water Plant, the cost of diesel fuel for each vehicle, and the cost of wear and tear on each vehicle;


WHEREAS, the DOWL engineer firm is close to completing a concept paper to construct a new water pipe and 500,000 gallon water tank and boiler shack on City property along the highway;

WHEREAS, the construction of a new 500,000 gallon water tank would give the City three water tanks of equal size, providing a comfortable level of redundancy/backup for a population of 6,259;

WHEREAS, the construction of the fill station will lessen the City's burden to serve the Blue Sky Subdivision, a planned 83-lot housing development, located three miles away from the planned fill station site;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Bethel City Council hereby requests that the State of Alaska provide \$7,870,600 in its FY 2022 Capital Budget to fund the Water Tank and Water Haul Truck Fill Station project;

ENACTED THIS 12th DAY OF OCTOBER 2021 BY A VOTE OF 7 IN FAVOR AND 0 OPPOSED.


Michelle DeWitt (Oct 25, 2021 10:11 AKDT)

Michelle DeWitt, Mayor

ATTEST:


Lori Strickler, City Clerk

Resolution 21-17 City Of Bethel Priorities For The SFY 2023 State Of Alaska Capital Budget

Final Audit Report

2021-10-25

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By:	Lori Strickler (lstrickler@cityofbethel.net)
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"Resolution 21-17 City Of Bethel Priorities For The SFY 2023 State Of Alaska Capital Budget" History

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Introduced by: Pete Williams, Interim City Manager
Date: January 12, 2021
Action: Passed
Vote: 7-0

CITY OF BETHEL

Resolution # 21-01

CITY OF BETHEL PRIORITIES FOR THE SFY 2022 STATE OF ALASKA CAPITAL BUDGET

- WHEREAS,** the City of Bethel is proactively pursuing funds from 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 to meet resident and visitor needs;
- WHEREAS,** Bethel City government relies on various taxes and interest, charges for services, and licenses/permit fees to pay for major maintenance needs;
- WHEREAS,** City of Bethel water and sewer systems have been in the black for five years due to the annual 3% rate increase required by ordinance, water and sewer subscription rate fee collections, and short-lived asset funds set aside for repairs;
- WHEREAS,** as a hub community for 30,000 people living in the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta region, the City of Bethel often supports projects and expenditures that 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 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;
- WHEREAS,** a summary of the City of Bethel's priorities and requested funding amounts are listed in the following table:

Introduced by: Pete Williams, Interim City Manager
Date: January 12, 2021
Action: Passed
Vote: 7-0

City of Bethel Priorities	Request
1. New Public Works Building	\$36,400,000
2. Bethel Heights Water Loop A	\$9,024,803
3. Bethel Heights Water and Sewer Improvements	\$10,146,000
4. Yukon Kuskokwim Fitness Center Gym and Track	\$10,000,000
5. Dust Control Road Stabilization Measures	\$2,440,000
6. Bethel Heights Sewer Repairs	\$5,233,000
7. Water Pipes, Water Tank and Fill Station	\$7,870,600
TOTAL	\$81,114,403

#1	New Public Works Building	\$36,400,000
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WHEREAS, the City of Bethel relies on its 29,000 square foot Public Works Building to house water and sewer haul trucks, provide a full-service mechanic shop for the repair of gasoline and diesel vehicles (heavy equipment), storage and mechanic space for the Streets and Roads Division, a Property Maintenance Shop and storage area, administrative offices, and the City Planner’s office;

WHEREAS, the Public Works Building was constructed in 1982 on creosote-soaked wood pilings and has exceeded its 30 year life expectancy;

WHEREAS, the 29,000 square foot building was constructed for a community of Bethel that contained 3,595 people living in 1,000 households on 15 miles of road;

WHEREAS, today, the City serves 6,259 people living in 1,920 households on 36 miles of roads--almost double the conditions found in 1983;

WHEREAS, BBFM Engineers, Inc. performed a structural and condition assessment on the Public Works Building in July 2019 and determined that some of the beam-to-girder connectors under the building have failed and “can no longer be relied upon to safely support vehicle loads;”

WHEREAS, after the glulam beams and girders supporting the floor were tested for rot and decay, BBFM engineers Troy Feller and Greg Latreille, concluded that 120 metal hangers, 12 glulam beams, and 5 girders should be repaired, replaced, or reinforced in the next 1-2 years;

Introduced by: Pete Williams, Interim City Manager
Date: January 12, 2021
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WHEREAS, the cost of the fixes recommended in the BBFM report could be as high as \$7 million;

WHEREAS, the City has poured a vast amount of funding into the building over the last ten years, including a \$1.5 million floor repair, a \$1 million boiler installation, and is prepared to spend \$1.2 million in summer 2021 to purchase and install a new backup generator and perform the immediate fixes recommended in the BBFM report;

WHEREAS, in summarizing the BBFM report and serving as the City’s municipal engineer overseeing the assessment, Chase Nelson, recommends in a memorandum dated October 4, 2019, that the City go forward with its plans to spend \$1.5 million to replace the failed connectors, glulam beams, and girders, but points out that “the City eventually will need to replace the full facility, and needs to consider this as a long-term priority;”

WHEREAS, the City needs a new 52,000 square foot Public Works Building to effectively and efficiently deliver hauled water and sewer services to a growing population, maintain its water and sewer piped infrastructure that serves 420 properties, maintain and repair 18 miles of gravel road, maintain its 28 City-owned buildings, and repair/maintain its fleet of heavy equipment, SUVs, and pickup trucks;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Bethel City Council hereby requests that the State of Alaska provide \$36,400,000 in its FY 2022 Capital Budget to fund a new Public Works Building for the City of Bethel;

#2	Bethel Heights Water Loop A	\$9,024,803
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WHEREAS, Bethel Heights Water Loop A, constructed in 1977, currently serves 150 residential and commercial customers;

WHEREAS, Loop A is 20,700 linear feet and has more water customer connections than Loop B;

WHEREAS, the galvanized steel water pipes are eleven years past their 30-year lifespan;

WHEREAS, engineer studies reveal that interior pipe galvanization has worn off, causing rust to form, sediment to clog the filters of homeowners, blocked

Introduced by: Pete Williams, Interim City Manager
Date: January 12, 2021
Action: Passed
Vote: 7-0

air valves, pipes to freeze when clogged, and brown water to be delivered occasionally to end-users;

WHEREAS, Engineers warned the City not to use its “high demand pump” to facilitate water flow to fire hydrants for fear that the rushing water from its use would cause a blow-out in the weakened pipe;

WHEREAS, the purchase and installation of HDPE pipe to replace Loop A and form Loop C would solve the problems identified for this section of Bethel Heights and last the community 50 years;

WHEREAS, the City needs a cash infusion to support this project because it is unable to tap Village Safe Water funds and United States Department of Agriculture funds for this project due to the lack of a dire sanitation need and the fact that the piped water is potable;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Bethel City Council hereby requests that the State of Alaska provide \$9,024,803 in its FY 2022 Capital Budget to fund the reconstruction of Loop A.

#3	Bethel Heights Water and Sewer Improvements	\$10,146,000
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WHEREAS, Engineer firm DOWL generated a Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) and Environmental Report (December 2019) that evaluated the water and sewer systems in Bethel Heights Subdivision in Bethel;

WHEREAS, the Report considered six alternatives and recommended the construction of C-Loop, extension of the sewer system, and completion of spot repairs;

WHEREAS, the original gravity-fed sewer main was constructed in 1977 and has exceeded its expected 40-year useful life;

WHEREAS, according to the PER, “the age of the system has resulted in tangibly reduced reliability and performance, comparatively high and increasing cost of O&M, and an overall reduction in the safety of the system;”

WHEREAS, the City filed noncompliance notifications with the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation during the last two winters for flushing open sections of frozen sewer pipe over the tundra—the only way to thaw the pipes;

Introduced by: Pete Williams, Interim City Manager
Date: January 12, 2021
Action: Passed
Vote: 7-0

WHEREAS, the City of Bethel serves approximately 300 customers in Bethel Heights by piped water and sewer and 25 additional properties nearby are not connected to piped water and sewer, but are served by the truck haul system;

WHEREAS, the City has an opportunity to run new high density polyethylene water and sewer pipes to 25 homes in the Martina Oscar Subdivision adjacent to Bethel Heights and save \$200,000 a year in operation and maintenance;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Bethel City Council hereby requests that the State of Alaska provide \$10,146,000 in its FY 2022 Capital Budget to fund the construction of C-Loop and sewer system improvements in Bethel Heights.

#4	Yukon Kuskokwim Fitness Center Gym & Track	\$10,000,000
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WHEREAS, the City of Bethel Multi-Use Recreation Facility Plan completed in 2005 identified a pool and full size gymnasium as the first and second most popular functions in a planned recreation facility;

WHEREAS, the City obtained Alaska State legislative capital funding in FY 2012 and constructed the Yukon Kuskokwim Fitness Center, a multipurpose recreational and training facility with a pool, fitness center, exercise room, locker rooms, and concession area;

WHEREAS, the citizens of Bethel voted to increase sales taxes by one-half percent to generate approximately \$500,000 and recommended that the City use the money to operate and maintain the facility, which it has done since inception;

WHEREAS, the YK Fitness Center was constructed with boilers, air handling system, and other features conducive to the addition of a gymnasium;

WHEREAS, the City of Bethel is investing \$75,000 of its money to go out to bid to hire a consultant to complete a feasibility study to support the gymnasium;

WHEREAS, the gym in the high school and Gladys Jung Elementary school are used almost exclusively for student activities, leaving no gym time for adults, children, and families;

Introduced by: Pete Williams, Interim City Manager
Date: January 12, 2021
Action: Passed
Vote: 7-0

WHEREAS, the community of Bethel desperately needs a gymnasium the whole community can use for basketball, volleyball, running, and indoor rock climbing;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Bethel City Council hereby requests that the State of Alaska provide \$10,000,000 in its FY 2022 Capital Budget to fund a new gymnasium and running track for the City of Bethel;

#5	Dust Control Road Stabilization Measures	\$2,440,000
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WHEREAS, the community of Bethel is plagued by airborne dust from its gravel roads, which cause harm to individuals through inhalation, ingestion, and contact with eyes, ears, and skin;

WHEREAS, purchasing and applying several inches of D1 sharp-edged gravel to roads in Bethel helps compact dust and provide a conducive surface for motor vehicles;

WHEREAS, applications of calcium chloride and water to gravel roadways have proven to be effective dust control measures for Bethel, Alaska;

WHEREAS, the City wishes to purchase one new water spray truck to apply water to the dusty streets throughout the summer;

WHEREAS, the City must purchase and apply gravel and other emulsifiers in bulk quantities on its subdivision roads, which are currently underserved because the City has had to focus on its thoroughfares;

WHEREAS, the City has the heavy equipment, trained personnel, and operating costs in its budget to apply gravel, calcium chloride and other emulsifiers, and water to the City's roads, as needed;

WHEREAS, this project requires the purchase of \$2,000,000 of gravel, a \$190,000 water spray truck, \$150,000 to purchase several emulsifiers as part of a demonstration project, and \$100,000 worth of calcium chloride;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Bethel City Council hereby requests that the State of Alaska provide \$2,440,000 in its FY 2022 Capital Budget to fund the Dust Control Measures project;

Introduced by: Pete Williams, Interim City Manager
Date: January 12, 2021
Action: Passed
Vote: 7-0

#6	Bethel Heights Sewer Repairs	\$5,233,000
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WHEREAS, DOWL engineer firm is on contract with the City of Bethel and published a preliminary engineering report on the Bethel Heights Water Distribution and Sewer Collection System (March 2020);

WHEREAS, the report identifies critical piped sewer spot repairs to be completed as part of the recommended Alternative 3 at a cost of \$5,233,000;

WHEREAS, the repairs are needed to address gravity-fed sewer pipes that have succumb to undulating ground movement that caused sunken pilings to no longer maintain a positive drainage grade;

WHEREAS, during the winter months, pipe sewer sections freeze solid, requiring the City to break open frozen sewer pipe sections, flush the contents onto the tundra, and reattach the pipes;

WHEREAS, City Public Works Department utility maintenance personnel file noncompliance notifications with the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation each time a frozen sewer pipe is opened and thawed;

WHEREAS, repairs on the Bethel Heights sewer system include replacement of 3,600 linear feet of sewer main and 35 service line segments, and installation of additional pile supports;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Bethel City Council hereby requests that the State of Alaska provide \$5,233,000 in its FY 2022 Capital Budget to fund the Bethel Heights Sewer Repairs project;

#7	Water Pipes, Water Tank and Fill Station	\$7,870,600
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WHEREAS, the City of Bethel truck drivers use six water haul trucks and six sewer haul trucks to carry water and evacuate sewage for 1,600 residential, commercial, and organizational facilities in Bethel six days a week;

WHEREAS, the City must fill its water haul trucks at one of two fill stations: Bethel Heights Water Treatment Plant or City Subdivision Water Treatment Plant;

WHEREAS, the City's two water treatment plants are located within a mile of each other, which makes the service less expensive to nearby subdivisions (City

Introduced by: Pete Williams, Interim City Manager
Date: January 12, 2021
Action: Passed
Vote: 7-0

Subdivision, Hoffman Subdivision, Bethel Heights, and The Avenues), but exorbitant to serve far away subdivisions like Kasayuli, Larsen, Tundra Ridge, Ouivaq, and Ptarmigan Street;

WHEREAS, the cost to deliver water in Bethel is very high at \$29/1,000 gallons/mile;

WHEREAS, the high cost for water delivery is due to the limited amount of water that trucks can carry, the number of miles the trucks need to traverse to make deliveries and return to the water plant to refill, the time it takes for filling one truck at a time at City Subdivision Water Plant, the cost of diesel fuel for each vehicle, and the cost of wear and tear on each vehicle;

WHEREAS, the DOWL engineer firm is close to completing a concept paper to construct a new water pipe and 500,000 gallon water tank and boiler shack on City property along the highway;

WHEREAS, the construction of a new 500,000 gallon water tank would give the City three water tanks of equal size, providing a comfortable level of redundancy/backup for a population of 6,259;

WHEREAS, the construction of the fill station will lessen the City's burden to serve the Blue Sky Subdivision, a planned 83-lot housing development, located three miles away from the planned fill station site;


NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Bethel City Council hereby requests that the State of Alaska provide \$7,870,600 in its FY 2022 Capital Budget to fund the Water Tank and Water Haul Truck Fill Station project;

ENACTED THIS 12th DAY OF JANUARY 2021 BY A VOTE OF 7 IN FAVOR AND 0 OPPOSED.

Michelle DeWitt
Michelle DeWitt (Jan 22, 2021 10:20 AMST)

Michelle DeWitt, Mayor

ATTEST:


Lori Strickler, City Clerk

Resolution 21-01 Priorities For The SFY 2022 State Of Alaska Capital Budget

Final Audit Report

2021-01-22

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City of Bethel

Dust Control Measures

FY 2024 State of Alaska Capital Budget Request

Contact Person

John Sargent, Grant Development Manager
City of Bethel
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Bethel, AK 99559
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1. Summary Statement

The City of Bethel requests that \$2,450,000 be put in the FY 2020 State Capital Budget for Bethel Dust Control Measures, a project that will provide funding for gravel, calcium chloride, hydroseed, and a new water spray truck.

The City has the responsibility of controlling dust on 17 miles of gravel roads in Bethel and the parking lots and driveways for its buildings. Airborne dust is one Bethel environmental hazard that affects all residents who drive, walk, and live on or near gravel roadways.

The application of gravel, calcium chloride, and water to the City's streets causes the road surface to harden up like cement for a time and suppress airborne dust. By reducing airborne dust, the City will make it safer for people to live and breathe in Bethel, especially individuals with respiratory ailments.

2. Brief Community Profile

Physical Environment

The community of Bethel is located four hundred air miles west of Anchorage and forty air miles from the Bering Sea. Isolated from the road network of Alaska, the city encompasses 44 square miles in Southwest Alaska, including six miles of Kuskokwim River shoreline.

The Kuskokwim River freezes sufficiently in the winter to allow vehicle traffic, connecting Bethel to many villages along the river.

Regional Hub

Bethel is a hub community for 56 Yukon-Kuskokwim villages in the region. Bethel is home to the third busiest airport in the state of Alaska, due largely to its cargo shipments, and home to the largest medium draft port in the state in terms of tonnage off-loaded. Goods destined for Kuskokwim River villages land in Bethel first and then are repackaged and taken to villages by

plane, river barge, automobile, four-wheeler, boat, or snowmobile. Petroleum products are handled the same way, off-loaded in Bethel to smaller river fuel barges and then transported to small villages upriver and downriver.

Many of the 26,000 residents who live in the 56 villages around Bethel come to Bethel to shop, access government services, satisfy health care needs, attend college or trade school courses, visit friends and relatives, and work. Bethel attracts a continual influx of people because it typically has 100 or more available jobs, private property for rent or sale, businesses for sale, and a variety of places to spend money, including restaurants, hotels, grocery stores, and specialty shops (e.g., hardware, auto parts, party supplies, sporting goods). Village residents also travel to Bethel to reconnect with family members.

Government

The City of Bethel was incorporated in 1957 while Alaska was still a territory and has since evolved to become a second-class city with a Council/Manager form of government. The seven elected City Council members hire and direct the City Manager, who oversees eight departments: Administration, Finance, Fire, Police, Port, Planning, Information Technology, and Public Works. Bethel is a municipal government in the unorganized borough area of western Alaska and contains no other cities within its boundaries.

The Bethel City Council develops its annual budget by June 15 for the following fiscal year, which runs from July 1 to June 30. The total budget is approximately \$14 million.

Population

Bethel is the largest rural town in Alaska with a population of 6,314 (Alaska Department of Community and Economic Development website, 2023). The community population has grown 3.84% since 2010 (pop. 6,080). Bethel's population is likely to increase as a result of the new Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation's (YKHC) Primary Care Center and hospital renovation in Bethel. The new facility will support 100 new jobs and the population will grow as a host of new health professionals move to town.

The YKHC is currently constructing a 109-unit hostel for patients and families who visit patients. The expected completion of this building in summer 2023 will also create more jobs.

Need for Financial Resources

The City of Bethel needs \$2,450,000 in FY 2024 State Capital funds for Dust Control Measures, most notably the purchase of gravel, calcium chloride, hydroseed, and the purchase of one water spray truck. The City's Public Works Department has no capital funds in its current budget to cover the cost of this capital project. The City's practice of passing a balanced budget in each of the last twelve years demonstrates the City's fiscal conservatism.

The City owns 32 buildings valued at over \$200 million, a City Dock facility, Petro Port facility, small boat harbor, and is responsible for maintaining 16 miles of road and the seawall. The City must keep its undesignated funds in reserve for emergencies and operate on a balanced budget.

3. Justification and Level of Need

The City has the responsibility to control dust on 17 miles of gravel roads in Bethel. Airborne dust is one Bethel environmental hazard that affects all residents driving, walking, and living on gravel roadways. This project will reduce the amount of airborne dust in Bethel and improve the health of the community.

The prevalence of dust stems from the local sand used to construct City roads and the presence of silt found in the Kuskokwim River Delta. Bethel is near the mouth of the Kuskokwim River and over thousands of years, has been the depository for upriver sand, mud, and clay. The sand in Bethel is fine and the silt is even finer. Smaller particles do more damage to lung tissues.

Airborne dust is the cause of many respiratory disease incidents in Bethel. One married man was in Bethel only three months before he had to be medically evacuated to Anchorage for respiratory treatment. His doctor recommended he move away from Bethel. He and his family immediately relocated back to Texas. A taxi driver's wife was unable live in Bethel due to the high airborne dust concentrations and moved to Anchorage as a result. For years, he lived and worked in Bethel and she lived and worked in Anchorage.

The City can confront the dust problem with sufficient tools and financial resources. The best and longest lasting dust control measure is the application of crushed gravel to road surfaces. Gravel holds down sand and dust. Combining calcium chloride and water to gravel roads represents a big improvement over gravel alone because it solidifies the road surface and acts like pavement for days to weeks.

Dust comes from the sides of the road as much as from the surface of the road. Roads typically have a 3 to 1 slope of sand that extends out about 9 feet on each side. The City will hydroseed these sections to reduce airborne dust. The City will contract a local company to apply hydroseed to the slopes of the roads so that grass grows and works to keep dust down.

Once the dust control project is completed, private and commercial automobile operators using the improved road surface will be able to move about the City with ease, convenience, and expedience because they will not have to worry about potholes, ripples from water runoff, and dust clouds present on many Bethel dirt roads in the summertime. The movement of bicyclists and pedestrians along road shoulders will also be facilitated because there will be a hard surface on which to travel and not the thick, dry sand that builds up on the edges of Bethel roads. All travelers will be safer with the improved roads because they will be able to focus attention on operating their vehicle/bicycle safely, rather than paying attention to clouds of dust and ill-health impacts.

4. Project Description

The City plans to spend \$1,900,000 on gravel, \$200,000 on a water spray truck, and \$150,000 to purchase several emulsifiers as part of a demonstration project, \$100,000 on calcium chloride, and \$100,000 on hydroseeding. These materials will be purchased according to the Bethel Municipal Code 4.20 Purchasing. The City will use the bid process, allowing fair and open

competition for all businesses and providing a competitive price to the City. Once a contract for the purchase is signed, the City will expect the gravel and materials to be shipped to Bethel by barge.

The City will apply calcium chloride, water, and gravel to harden the roads in Bethel. The surface will set up like cement for a time and offer the community a flat, solid, drivable surface. After several rains, the ability of the calcium chloride to act as a bonding agent wears off. The gravel will stay in the roadbed for years before additional applications are needed.

The City has all the equipment necessary to transport the calcium chloride from the City Dock where it will have been delivered by barge, to the Streets and Roads Division garage on First Avenue for storage. The calcium chloride comes in “super sacks” that are weather-resistant, but will be stored in cargo containers outside as has been done in previous years.

The City owns the dump trucks, dozers, graders, sanders, and other heavy equipment necessary to move, mix, and spread the calcium chloride and gravel to the road surface. The City has been maintaining gravel roads in Bethel for over 50 years. The City Shop yard is a great storage area for the crushed gravel.

This project will follow the timeline given below:

Date	Event
August 2023	Designated Legislative Grant Agreement signed
September 2023	City uses its five-year contract with KNIK Construction to purchase and stockpile gravel. City uses the bid process to purchase calcium chloride and water spray truck to be delivered by barge in 2024.
June 2024	City receives calcium chloride and water spray truck from barge delivery to City Dock.
June-September 2024-2025	City applies calcium chloride, gravel, and water to road surfaces and applies the new emulsifier.
December, 2025	City closes grant with grantor by completing all paperwork.

5. Budget

The City of Bethel plans to use \$2,450,000 to control dust in Bethel according to this budget:

Crushed Gravel:	\$1,900,000
Water spray truck	\$200,000
Emulsifiers	\$150,000
Calcium Chloride:	\$100,000
Hydroseeding	<u>\$100,000</u>
Total	\$2,450,000

6. Operation and Maintenance

The City of Bethel's Public Works Department, Streets and Roads Division, will be responsible for applying the calcium chloride and gravel to the road surfaces in Bethel over the next two years. This amount of materials to be purchased for this project will provide the City with two year's worth of dust control measures.

The City of Bethel appropriates funds every year in its annual budget to support the Streets and Roads Division. The City owns heavy equipment and has licensed and certified personnel capable of operating the equipment. In general, the City of Bethel maintains the gravel roads in Bethel and the State of Alaska, Department of Transportation and Public Facilities, maintains most of the paved roads in Bethel.

7. What if no State Capital Funds are provided?

If no State Capital Funds are provided for the City's Dust Control Measures project then more community members will continue to suffer from airborne dust and experience symptoms like coughing, running noses, colds, trouble breathing, and eye irritation. Individuals with respiratory ailments like asthma, pleurisy, lung infections, and chronic bronchitis are particularly vulnerable to severe aggravation from airborne dust. The City will not be able to affectively protect its citizens from any and all dust-related health impacts.

8. What if State Capital Funds are provided?

If State funds are provided, the City will be able to protect its residents from dust to the best known extent possible. The City will purchase gravel, calcium chloride, and hydroseed materials in bulk quantities so that it gets the most value for State dollar expended. The City will use its trained CDL-certified personnel to apply the implements purchased to the gravel roads in Bethel under the City's purview. The amount of materials to be purchased is expected to last the City two years.

State funds for this project will reduce the number of airborne dust-related visits to the hospital and to Anchorage. The people who walk the roadways, jog, ride bicycles, and skateboard, will be especially grateful for any and all dust control measures the City can employ.

The use of State Capital funds to purchase dust control measures will have a positive financial impact on the community. Fewer employees in the community will be sick from dust-induced ailments, which will translate to less absences and tardies from work. The greater employee work days relative to sick days means greater productivity and employer savings.

After applying the dust control measures in Bethel, the condition of the roads will be improved, thereby requiring less maintenance, saving the City money. Savings from the dust control measures project means that funds can be reallocated to other important purposes.