

Kenai Peninsula Borough

Grants Administration

MEMORANDUM

TO: Ryan Tunseth, Assembly President
Members, Kenai Peninsula Borough

THRU: Peter A. Micciche, Mayor *Alycia*
Brandi Harbaugh, Finance Director *Brandi Harbaugh*

FROM: Heather Geer, Grants Administrator & Community Liaison *Heather Geer*
Ben Hanson, IT Director *Ben Hanson*

DATE: January 21, 2026

RE: **LAYDOWN** Ordinance 2025-19-26, Appropriating Local Area and Tribal Consistency Funds to Fund the 25% Cost Share Requirement for the FY26 Congressionally Directed Spending Award to Construct Telecommunications Infrastructure in Turnagain Pass (Mayor)

On November 17, 2025, the Borough was notified that the FY26 Congressionally Directed Spending project titled “Kenai Peninsula Critical Communications Upgrades” was included in the FY26 Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration and Related Agencies Congressional appropriations bill in the amount of \$2,045,000. The project will construct telecommunications infrastructure in Turnagain Pass to improve emergency response times and enhance public communication support services. In order to receive the appropriated congressionally directed spending funds, a grant application must be submitted to the department that will administer the grant award.

On December 2nd, 2025 the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Housing Service, Community Facilities Program initiated their granting process and provided the application and required documents, which include a 25% cost share requirement. As part of the required cost share, the Borough is looking to solicit a Preliminary Architectural Feasibility Report to be completed by a qualified firm with an approximate cost of \$30,000.

The Borough was awarded U.S. Treasury Local Assistance and Tribal Consistency Funds (LATCF) established by the American Rescue Plan Act in October 2022. The Borough is a direct recipient of \$12 million. Technology Infrastructure expenditures are eligible expenditures under the award and therefore the ordinance requests an appropriation of \$681,667 in LATCF funds to provide for the 25% project cost share. Once the requirements of the congressionally directed spending award have been met and the award finalized, an ordinance appropriating and accepting the grant will be brought to the assembly for consideration.

Your consideration is appreciated.

FINANCE DEPARTMENT
ACCOUNT / FUNDS VERIFIED

Acct. No. 271.00000.LATCF.33115 Amt \$ 681,667

By:  Date: 2/2/2026