

Kenai Peninsula Borough Western Emergency Service Area

MEMORANDUM

TO: Brent Johnson, Assembly President
Members, Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly

THRU: Charlie Pierce, Mayor *CP*
Brandi Harbaugh, Finance Director *BH*
Brenda Ahlberg, Community & Fiscal Projects Manager *BA*

FROM: Jon Marsh, WESA Fire Chief *JM*

DATE: November 23, 2021

SUBJECT: Ordinance 2021-19-30, Accepting and Appropriating the Remaining Balance of \$255,854.84 from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response Grant, and Appropriating \$5,117.10 for the Administrative Fee on Behalf of Western Emergency Service Area (Mayor)

Western Emergency Service Area (WESA) depends heavily on volunteers to adequately and safely respond to incidents. The volunteers are crucial to WESA in providing safe responses to incidents. The Homeland Security's Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response grant award will fund a recruitment and retention program that will seek to increase recruitment of new volunteer firefighters and find ways to keep current members engaged in a long-term relationship with our department.

The grant performance period ends December 9, 2023 and provides reimbursable funding in categories such as personal protection equipment for new recruits, money for training and salary for a recruitment and retention coordinator; these duties will be assigned to a current employee. It is the goal of WESA to have established a successful recruitment and retention program that is fully integrated within departmental policy by the end of the grant performance period.

Funds are available in the Service Area's fund balance to meet the 2% administrative fee. The Service Area Board met on January 13, 2021, and unanimously approved acceptance of this grant and renewed its commitment to increase staffing at single firefighter stations. The WESA Fire Chief shall provide grant oversight and project completion.

Attachment: DHS award letter

FINANCE DEPARTMENT FUNDS/ACCOUNT VERIFICATION	
Acct. No: 209.27910	Amount \$5,117.10
Acct. No. 209.51410.SAFR2.49999	Amount \$N/A
By: <i>CP</i>	Date: 11/22/2021