

Kenai Peninsula Borough
Office of the Emergency Management

MEMORANDUM

TO: Wayne Ogle, Assembly President
Members, Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly

THRU: Charlie Pierce, Mayor *CP*

FROM: Dan Nelson, Senior Manager Office of Emergency Management *DN*
Brandi Harbaugh, Finance Director *BH*

DATE: August 29, 2019

RE: Emergency Ordinance 2019-19-11, Appropriating Funds from the General Fund for Response Under the Declared Local Disaster Emergency for the Kenai Peninsula (Mayor) (Hearing on 8/29/19)

The Swan Lake fire started on June 5, 2019 on lands managed by the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge between Sterling and Cooper Landing. This fire continues to burn having reached over 160,000 acres to date, prompting evacuation notifications and intermittent closures of the Sterling Highway. This fire continues to threaten damage to life and property of the residents and visitors in the communities of Cooper Landing and Sterling. Transportation to and from the Kenai Peninsula has been severely impacted. Evacuation preparedness, road closure and air quality notifications and essential firefighting support is being administrated by the borough at this time.

On August 18, 2019, the North Fork fire near Homer started and after expending significant borough resources in coordination with the State of Alaska, this fire is now contained.

On August 19, 2019, the Caribou Lake fire near East End Road in Homer began, has burned over 900- acres, remains at 20 percent containment. The borough continues to support the firefighting efforts for this fire.

As a result of these wildfires, a local emergency disaster was declared by Mayor Pierce on August 21, 2019. It is expected that significant expenses will continue to be incurred in responding to the Swan Lake and Caribou Lake wildfires. This ordinance is an emergency ordinance due to life, health, and safety issues. It seeks funding response and assessment by the borough through the declared disaster declaration.

Your consideration is appreciated.

**FINANCE DEPARTMENT
ACCOUNT / FUNDS VERIFIED**

Acct. No. (FB) 100.27910

Amount: \$200,000.00

By: pp Date: 8/29/19