

Kenai Peninsula Borough
Finance Department

MEMORANDUM

TO: Kelly Cooper, Assembly President
Members, Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly

THRU: Charlie Pierce, Mayor *CP*

FROM: Brandi Harbaugh, Finance Director *BH*
Lisa Kosto, 911 Senior Manager *LK*

DATE: September 1, 2020

RE: Ordinance 2020-19-06, Appropriating \$111,869.20 to Fund a Former State Dispatch Position at the Soldotna Public Safety Communications Center (Mayor)

On August 21, 2020 a state dispatcher located in the Soldotna Public Safety Communications Center (SPSCC) separated from their employment with the state. The SPSCC is already seriously short-staffed and this position needs to be filled as soon as possible. Training a new dispatcher requires 12 months of on-the-job training using a full-time current dispatcher. The SPSCC has historically been staffed with 14 line-level dispatchers and 4 shift supervisors. Currently the SPSCC is short five positions including four in training and the new vacancy. This is submitted as a laydown due to the urgent need to fill this position as soon as possible.

This ordinance would approve the new borough dispatcher position and appropriate funds for the position. The current contract between the borough and the state for the joint operation of the SPSCC will end on July 1, 2021 due to the notice of termination given by the borough on February 28, 2020. This notice was issued due to the state's decision, publicized in 2017, to consolidate many of its trooper dispatch centers into a new location in Palmer. The state does not plan to fill that position but has indicated it expects to reimburse the borough for costs involved in covering the vacancy per the contract. The administration believes the borough's best interests would be served by making this a borough position so the person can remain at the SPSCC after the contract terminates and will have completed much of their needed training.

Your consideration of this ordinance is appreciated.

FINANCE DEPARTMENT FUNDS/ACCOUNT VERIFIED	
<u>Account No. 100.27910</u>	
<u>Amount: \$111,869.20</u>	
By: <u>PP</u>	Date: <u>8/31/2020</u>