

SUBJECT: A RESOLUTION OF THE MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH REAPPROPRIATING \$100,000 FROM THE DEVELOP TIMBER INVENTORY DATABASE PROJECT and APPROVING THE SCOPE AND WORK AND BUDGET TO THE WILDFIRE MITIGATION PROJECT.

AGENDA OF: October 3, 2023

Assembly Action: Approved under the consent agenda 10/03/23 - BJH

AGENDA ACTION REQUESTED: Present to the Assembly for consideration.

Route To	Signatures
Originator	<div>9 / 1 9 / 2 0 2 3</div> <div>X E m e r s o n K r u e g e r</div> <div>S i g n e d b y : E m e r s o n K r u e g e r</div>
Department Director	<div>9 / 2 0 / 2 0 2 3</div> <div>X E r i c P h i l l i p s</div> <div>S i g n e d b y : E r i c P h i l l i p s</div>
Finance Director	<div>9 / 2 1 / 2 0 2 3</div> <div>X C h e y e n n e H e i n d e l</div> <div>S i g n e d b y : C h e y e n n e H e i n d e l</div>
Borough Attorney	<div>9 / 2 1 / 2 0 2 3</div> <div>X N i c h o l a s S p i r o p o u l o s</div> <div>S i g n e d b y : N i c h o l a s S p i r o p o u l o s</div>
Borough Manager	<div>9 / 2 1 / 2 0 2 3</div> <div>X M i c h a e l B r o w n</div> <div>S i g n e d b y : M i c h a e l B r o w n</div>
Borough Clerk	<div>9 / 2 1 / 2 0 2 3</div> <div>X L o n n i e M c K e c h n i e</div> <div>S i g n e d b y : L o n n i e M c K e c h n i e</div>

ATTACHMENT (S) : Fiscal Note: YES X NO
Resolution Serial No. 23-102 (2 pp)

SUMMARY STATEMENT: In FY24, \$100,000 was included to develop a timber inventory database. In light of the success with recent small scale salvage timber harvests in the Big Lake area, this project is no longer mission critical to support the borough forestry program. This funding is proposed to be re-appropriated to the Saw Crew Project in anticipation of future grant match needs as well as general crew costs such as equipment, maintenance, training, and travel. Redirecting timber inventory funding to reduce wildfire hazard and improve public safety on Borough land, near high-use public facilities is a better near-term investment.

Land Management is requesting to re-scope the funds in this project. Re-scoping the project funds will add approximately three months to the Borough Saw crew project and further reduce fire hazard and improve public safety on borough-owned land. This funding will allow for Saw Crew employees to complete additional fire hazard reduction work on Borough property. Furthermore, the State of Alaska Division of Forestry is contemplating a capital grant for the Saw Crew Project. Demonstrating the Borough's continuing support and commitment to the Saw Crew project is anticipated to influence if and how much funding the State considers providing to the Borough's project.

Temporary, seasonal Saw Crew positions were created in the fall of 2021. The crew is comprised of employees who specialize in hazard tree felling and wildfire fuel reduction. The proposed project re-scope would support the Saw Crew project employees. Project employees are short-term employees with no retirement benefits that work until the project funding is spent.

The Saw Crew has focused on creating fuel breaks around local schools, as well as wildfire fuel reduction in high-use Borough parks. Nearly 90 percent of wildfires are human caused. Focusing fuel reduction efforts in and around high-traffic facilities offers increased protection both for the facility as well to the surrounding area from the increased human activity associated with the facility.

The Mat-Su School District provided a list of prioritized schools for wildfire fuel reduction efforts. So far this year, the Saw Crew has completed a shaded fuel break around Finger Lake Elementary, and hazard tree felling at the adjacent Segalhorst Aquatic Education Park, as well Meadow Lakes Elementary School. The slash piles are planned to be burned this winter. There are enough schools and parks identified for fire hazard reduction to keep the crew busy for years. This funding re-scope along with the State Forestry funding is anticipated to complete the funding required for the project.

In-between the work at the schools, the Crew has been working along public trails at the Matanuska River Park, Jim Creek Recreation Area, Lazy Mountain Recreation Area, and recently, Settlers Bay Coastal Park and Crevasse Moraine Trail System. Both the School District and the Borough Recreation Services Division staff have commended the Saw Crew for their professionalism and hard work. Their work has reduced the fire hazard at these popular recreation areas.

Approval of this legislation would support extending the Saw Crew project, increasing the number of schools and parks where wildfire hazard risk will be reduced.

The Borough submitted a request to State of Alaska for capital funding to support the Saw Crew Project. This funding for Saw Crew may be used as match for the Borough to obtain additional grant funding for fire hazard reduction.

The amount of fuel reduction work necessary to mitigate the high priority bark beetle infestation at borough public facilities will require years of Saw Crew work. Extending the Saw Crew season through the proposed re-appropriation of timber project funding will accelerate the wildfire hazard reduction work at Borough schools and parks.

RECOMMENDATION OF ADMINISTRATION: Respectfully request approval.

MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH
FISCAL NOTE

Agenda Date: October 3, 2023

SUBJECT: A RESOLUTION OF THE MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH REAPPROPRIATING \$100,000 FROM THE DEVELOP TIMBER INVENTORY DATABASE PROJECT and APPROVING THE SCOPE AND WORK AND BUDGET TO THE WILDFIRE MITIGATION PROJECT.

FISCAL ACTION (TO BE COMPLETED BY FINANCE)	FISCAL IMPACT YES NO
AMOUNT REQUESTED \$100,000	FUNDING SOURCE Misc. Capital Projects
FROM ACCOUNT : 480.000.000 4xx.xxx	PROJECT# 47031-2000-2006
TO ACCOUNT : 480.000.000 3xx.xxx	PROJECT # 47109
VERIFIED BY: <div style="text-align: right; font-size: small;">9 / 2 0 / 2 0 2 3</div> <div style="text-align: center;">X L i e s e l W e i l a n d</div> <div style="text-align: center; font-size: x-small;">S i g n e d b y : L i e s e l W e i l a n d</div>	CERTIFIED BY:
DATE: 9/20/2023	DATE:

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES:

(Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING	FY2023	FY2024	FY2025	FY2026	FY2027	FY2028
Personnel Services						
Travel						
Contractual						
Supplies						
Equipment						
Land/Structures						
Grants, Claims						
Miscellaneous						
TOTAL OPERATING						

CAPITAL		100.0				
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REVENUE						
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FUNDING:

(Thousands of Dollars)

General Fund						
State/Federal Funds						
Other		100.0				
TOTAL		100.0				

POSITIONS:

Full-Time						
Part-Time						
Temporary						

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

PREPARED BY: _____ PHONE: _____

DEPARTMENT: _____ DATE: _____

9 / 2 1 / 2 0 2 3

APPROVED BY:

X

C h e y e n n e H e i n d e l

DATE:

S i g n e d b y : C h e y e n n e H e i n d e l