

**RESOLUTION NO. 4818**

**A RESOLUTION STATING THE CITY OF FAIRBANKS  
LEGISLATIVE AND CAPITAL PRIORITIES FOR 2018**

**WHEREAS**, the City is grateful for the funding provided by the State of Alaska, which has added significantly to the City's ability to provide essential services; and

**WHEREAS**, many of the services the City provides are centered on protecting the lives and property of the citizens of Fairbanks; preparedness and infrastructure are key in that endeavor; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Fairbanks has identified the following capital and legislative priorities; the public had the opportunity to speak to this Resolution at the December 11, 2017, City Council meeting.

**NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FAIRBANKS  
RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:**

The legislative and capital priorities of the City of Fairbanks are stated on the attached list. In summary, the projects are ranked below:

2018 Legislative Priorities

1. Maintain current PERS contribution rates
2. Restore Community Assistance Program (formerly Revenue Sharing)
3. Provide State Assistance for Contaminated Ground Water
4. Implement Ground Emergency Medical Transportation Program (GEMT)
5. Maintain funding for the Alaska Land Mobile Radio (ALMR)
6. Reject a statewide general sales tax

2018 Capital Priorities

1. Fund the Emergency Service Patrol

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the City Clerk is directed to forward copies of this Resolution to the Honorable Governor Bill Walker and the Alaska Interior Legislative Delegation.

**PASSED and APPROVED this 11th day of December 2017.**



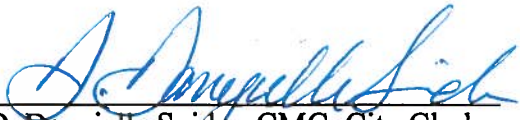
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**Jim Matherly, Mayor  
City of Fairbanks**

AYES: PASSED and APPROVED on the CONSENT AGENDA  
NAYS: None  
ABSENT: None  
APPROVED: December 11, 2017

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



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D. Danyielle Snider, CMC, City Clerk



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Paul Ewers, City Attorney

**City of Fairbanks**  
**Legislative and Capital Priorities 2018**

1. **Maintain PERS contributions rate:** Legislative action is likely necessary to address the rising costs of Alaska's Public Employee Retirement System's (PERS) unfunded liability and the impact of rising PERS liability costs on City taxpayers. The City supports keeping PERS past service costs at 22% of gross wages. This was not a mistake made by municipalities and should not unduly burden municipal budgets. The fiscal liability should rest with the State of Alaska.
2. **Restore Community Assistance Program (formerly Revenue Sharing):** The City of Fairbanks understands the State of Alaska's current fiscal situation and the need to remove unnecessary or duplicative expenses from the State operating budget. The City of Fairbanks is concerned that budget reductions and subsequent reductions in services at the State level will manifest at the municipal level as increased demands for services. Because of this threat, the Community Assistance Program must be maintained. The City of Fairbanks budget cycle is on the calendar year, not fiscal year. Early and accurate funding notice is extremely helpful for the City to be able to set and manage its budget.
3. **State Assistance in Contaminated Ground Water:** Fairbanks Regional Fire Training Center (FRFTC) has Aqueous Film-Forming Foam (AFFF) contamination in the ground water. Examination of records determined that multiple outside agencies rented and used AFFF at the training center. Fairbanks International Airport, Department of Forestry, and UAF/CTC Fire Science Program have all trained and used AFFF at the FRFTC. The City of Fairbanks is actively providing water connections to the residents impacted by this contamination as well as continuing to test wells in the impacted area. Costs are still accruing. The City requests the State's support in helping to assess and remedy AFFF groundwater contamination. If available, the City would request that DEC's spill response funds be used for cleanup efforts.
4. **Ground Emergency Medical Transportation program (GEMT):** The City requests the delegation consider supporting/co-sponsoring HB176 and draft a resolution in support of the legislation prior to the 2018 session. This voluntary Certified Public Expenditure (CPE) based program provides supplemental funding to public agencies that provide GEMT services to Medicaid beneficiaries. When a Medicaid-eligible patient is transported to the hospital, only a fraction of the cost is reimbursed by Medicaid. The GEMT supplementary reimbursement program is a way to recover some of the uncompensated costs above what Medicaid covers, with no additional cost to City taxpayers or the State. 22% of patients transported in Alaska are Medicaid beneficiaries. In the City of Fairbanks (2016) this was at 32%. The City charges between \$800 - \$1,000 per ambulance transport, plus mileage charges. The average cost of an ambulance transport in Alaska is \$1,455. The average Medicaid reimbursement is \$455 per patient, leaving approximately \$545, plus the cost of mileage, in uncompensated costs per Medicaid patient. The City accrues approximately \$500,000 to \$1,000,000 in uncompensated costs annually. These uncompensated costs are recoverable under the GEMT supplementary reimbursement program. Implementation of the GEMT program involves amending the Alaska Medicaid State Plan to include GEMT reimbursement. Hospitals and other health care facilities have been accessing supplemental reimbursements for years. Ten other states are successfully utilizing or have pending legislation to participate in the GEMT program for ambulance transportation.

5. **Emergency Service Patrol (ESP):** The City requests \$300K for its ESP. The City of Fairbanks desires to continue its Emergency Service Patrol (ESP) for citywide transport of persons who are intoxicated as defined in AS 47.37.230. Since 2014, the City of Fairbanks has operated an ESP in community partnership with the Fairbanks Downtown Association, the Fairbanks North Star Borough, and other private contributors. This has provided relief to the overburdened law enforcement and emergency medical services in the area. The ESP in the City of Fairbanks will also begin transporting to the Sobering Center recently opened by the Tanana Chief Conference in December 2017. The ESP is a critical part of the success of the Sobering Center which will also help to shift the need to house intoxicated persons under Alaska Title 47 at the State's Fairbanks Correctional Center.
  
6. **The Alaska Land Mobile Radio (ALMR):** The ALMR is a shared, standards-based Federal, State, and local government land mobile radio (LMR) system. It provides a high degree of direct interoperability between its 123 user agencies, for not only their day-to-day operations, but also during emergencies or disasters. The State of Alaska Telecommunications System (SATS) provides the essential backbone infrastructure that enables the wide area capability and interoperability of ALMR. In 2002, the SOA entered into a shared system venture to establish ALMR, and in 2007, they signed the ALMR Cooperative Agreement pledging their full support. In April 2015, the Governor signed the Codicil to the Cooperative Agreement reaffirming SOA commitment to the ALMR partnership and the original Cooperative Agreement. The ALMR Communications Systems is a critical and absolutely necessary day-to-day tool that allows public safety responders to rapidly respond to events that impact the lives and livelihoods of the citizens of Alaska.
  
7. **State General Sales Tax:** Resolution #4753, as amended, was approved on July 11, 2016, by the City Council. The resolution stated, "...the Fairbanks City Council respectfully requests that the Alaska Legislature reject any proposal for a statewide general sales tax..." The Council stands by this resolution today.