

CITY OF UNALASKA
UNALASKA, ALASKA

RESOLUTION 2024-21

A RESOLUTION OF THE UNALASKA CITY COUNCIL AUTHORIZING FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF THE ALEUTIAN AND PRIBILOF ISLANDS LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE (LEPC) IN THE AMOUNT OF \$15,000 WITH FUNDING FROM THE FY24 COUNCIL SPONSORSHIP BUDGET.

WHEREAS, the LEPC is mandated by Federal Law under the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act, and Alaska State Statute under the State Emergency Response Commission.

WHEREAS, operational funding has previously been provided by the Unalaska Department of Public Safety and the no longer funded Local Emergency Planning Committee Grant Program; and

WHEREAS, the safety and well-being of the citizens of Unalaska are of paramount importance to the City Council; and

WHEREAS, the LEPC plays a critical role in enhancing community preparedness, coordination, and response to emergencies, including natural disasters, hazardous material incidents, and other potential threats; and

WHEREAS, the LEPC works to develop emergency response plans, conduct training and exercises, and ensure effective communication and coordination among local, state, and federal agencies, first responders, and the community; and

WHEREAS, adequate funding is essential for the LEPC to fulfill its mandate effectively.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Unalaska City Council approves funding for \$15,000 to support the continued operations of the LEPC to fortify our community's resilience against various hazards and disasters by bolstering emergency preparedness.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by a duly constituted quorum of the Unalaska City Council on May 28, 2024.

Vincent M. Tutiakoff, Sr.
Mayor

ATTEST:

Estkarlen P. Magdaong
City Clerk

MEMORANDUM TO COUNCIL

To: Mayor and City Council Members
From: William Homka, City Manager
Date: 5/28/2024
Re: Ordinance 2024-21: A resolution of the Unalaska City Council Authorizing Financial Support of the Aleutian & Pribilof Islands Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) in the Amount of \$15,000 with Funding from the FY24 Council Sponsorship Budget.

SUMMARY: Resolution 2024-21 will provide \$15,000 of financial support to the Aleutian & Pribilof Islands Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC). Alaska has reduced/eliminated funding for LEPCs due to budgetary limitations. The City will use Council Contingency to fund this request.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION: None

BACKGROUND: The LEPC organization has no source of funding for some needs and initiatives. Many Alaskan LEPC's operate through their Office of Emergency Management which affords a budget for purchases and programs. Examples include Anchorage LEPC, Kenai Peninsula Borough LEPC, Matsu Borough LEPC, Fairbanks LEPC, and Juneau LEPC.

DISCUSSION: The Aleutian & Pribilof Islands LEPC has no budget or source of income. The proposed \$15,000 sponsorship would help advance various committee initiatives, including:

- Enhance the recently built Ready, Set, Go! LEPC website by expanding its features and usability. This website is designed to be a one stop shop for emergency preparedness information in our area
- Develop a mobile application to complement the website, providing residents with accessible emergency preparedness resources
- Implement a house numbering project to improve emergency response efficiency
- Develop a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) certified through FEMA to respond to disaster events within our community. This is important because of our area's isolation
- Providing emergency kits to students at local schools as part of our school outreach program
- Coordinate training sessions in collaboration with the State of Alaska Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration/National Weather Service (NOAA/NWS), State of Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), and other relevant entities
- Successfully complete a hazardous materials emergency plan for Unalaska involving local industry, local government, and all necessary stakeholders.

ALTERNATIVES: Council may choose approve, disapprove or modify the requested amount.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS: The Council has sponsorship contingency that has \$15,000 that is available in 2024.

LEGAL: N/A

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

PROPOSED MOTION: I move to approve Resolution 2024-21...

CITY MANAGER COMMENTS: City Manager recommends approval.

ATTACHMENTS:

LEPC Request Letter, Peter Gurney



Dear Members of the Unalaska City Council,

I am writing to request the sponsorship of the Unalaska City Council for the Aleutian and Pribilof Islands Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC). Our committee comprises 30 emergency preparedness stakeholders from our area, dedicated to fostering a partnership between local government and industries to enhance all-hazards preparedness. The LEPC is a requirement by [Federal Law](#) and [Alaska Statute](#) due to an industrial accident that took place in [Bhopal, India](#) in 1984.

Currently, our LEPC operates without funding and faces limitations in obtaining resources to effectively achieve our objectives. With your support, we aim to bolster our community outreach efforts and strengthen our contribution to our areas emergency preparedness framework.

The proposed sponsorship in the form of \$15,000 would be instrumental in advancing various initiatives within our committee. Specifically, we intend to utilize any funding received for the following purposes:

- Enhancing our recently built [Ready, Set, Go! LEPC website](#) by expanding its features and usability. This website is designed to be a one stop shop for emergency preparedness information in our area.
- Developing a mobile application to complement our website, providing residents with accessible emergency preparedness resources.
- Implementing a house numbering project to improve emergency response efficiency.
- Developing a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) certified through FEMA to respond to disaster events within our community. This is particularly important due to the isolation of our area.
- Providing emergency kits to students at local schools as part of our school outreach program.
- Coordinating training sessions in collaboration with the State of Alaska Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration/National Weather Service (NOAA/NWS), State of Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), and other relevant entities.
- Successfully completing a hazardous materials emergency plan for Unalaska involving local industry, local government, and all necessary stakeholders.

These initiatives represent critical steps in fortifying our community's resilience against various hazards and disasters. By investing in these efforts, we aim to enhance public safety and preparedness across Unalaska.

We sincerely appreciate your consideration of our request and believe that the sponsorship of our committee aligns with the city's interests in bolstering emergency preparedness efforts. If you were to sponsor the Aleutian and Pribilof Islands LEPC we would proudly list you as a sponsor on our website, social media, and other platforms.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We look forward to the opportunity to collaborate with Unalaska City Council in enhancing emergency preparedness within our community.

Sincerely,

Peter Gurney
Aleutian and Pribilof Islands LEPC
chairperson@api-lepc.org