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**CITY OF WHITTIER, ALASKA
RESOLUTION 2022- 026**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
WHITTIER, ALASKA, APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR TWO
PAID FIRE & EMS POSITIONS AS AUTHORIZED BY WMC
2.27.010**

WHEREAS, the City has recently experienced two significant accidents resulting in serious bodily injury that could have resulted in multiple fatalities; and

WHEREAS, during a July 27 fire at the harbor launch ramp, City response vehicles were located on the other side of the Tunnel transporting patients from the cruise ship, leaving reduced coverage for fire and EMS in Whittier; and

WHEREAS, Whittier Municipal Code 2.27.010 established a fire department with a fire chief and assistant fire chief position and the City has not historically funded those positions; and

WHEREAS, the City's fire and EMS services are currently staffed by a single paid full-time EMS Coordinator position and with the closure of the Whittier Clinic, it is imperative that the City seek solutions to ensure more consistent and reliable response to emergencies; and

WHEREAS, the City Council desires to address the potential life/safety concerns resulting from insufficient full-time emergency responders through the creation of two additional full-time positions in Fire/EMS; and

WHEREAS, the City Council desires to separate the Fire/EMS Department from the Police Department in order to enhance the focus on fire and EMS coverage, training, volunteer recruitment and retention, and emergency response, and recommends creation of a Fire/EMS Chief position and a second EMS Coordinator position.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Whittier City Council that:

Section 1. Two new positions are added to the City's full-time exempt employee roster, a Fire/EMS Chief and a second EMS Coordinator.

Section 2. The Fire/EMS Chief shall be an exempt position equivalent to a department head in the City's classification plan, and responsible to oversee all aspects

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RESOLUTION 2022-026**

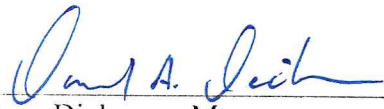
of the fire and emergency response functions and those functions shall no longer reside under the supervision of the director of public safety.

Section 3. The EMS Coordinator shall be at the same classification as the existing EMS Coordinator position to avoid the creation of a position that could be subject to PERS termination costs should the City elect to eliminate the position in the future.

Section 4. Funding in the amount of \$259,000 is hereby approved and appropriated from the Commercial Passenger Vessel Tax reserves account no. 20-000-3000 as follows: 1) \$132,931 to the General Fund Fire salary and benefit accounts 01-520-6XXX; and \$126,069 to the General Fund EMS salary and benefit accounts 01-530-6XXX, to restore two full-time positions.

Section 5. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

PASSED AND APPROVED by a duly constituted quorum of the Whittier City Council on this 16th day of August, 2022.



Dave Dickason, Mayor

AYES: Blair, Wagner, Denmark, Shen, Dickason

NAYS: Pinqouch

ABSENT: McCord

ABSTAIN: None

ATTEST:



Jackie C. Wilde

Assistant City Manager/Acting City Clerk