

Seward ALASKA

CITY OF SEWARD, AK - 2022 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES



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LOCATED AT THE NORTHERN TIP OF RESURRECTION BAY, SEWARD HAS LONG BEEN AN IMPORTANT DESTINATION.

In the Alutiiq language, Seward is known as Qutekcak, meaning 'big beach', and served the Alutiiq, Sugpiaq, and other Alaska Native peoples as a meeting area.

A deep-water, ice-free port with rail, highway, and air transportation, Seward is easily accessible from Alaska's major hubs and the Lower 48. The wild and stunning natural landscapes attract adventurers from around the world to enjoy the beautiful vistas, hike the stunning trails, experience the diverse wildlife, paddle and fish the rich waters, and explore our historic community.

Today, Seward is home to a vibrant community with a deep appreciation for the natural environment and local history and culture, with hundreds of thriving small businesses, robust maritime and tourism industries, as well as valuable educational and research opportunities.

We welcome you to join us in Seward and learn why we say *Alaska Starts Here*.



Incorporated in 1912, Seward, Alaska is a home-rule city in the Kenai Peninsula Borough.

Seward has a population of 2,600, with approximately 3,000 additional people residing in surrounding communities just outside of city boundaries.



A breathtaking land shaped by glaciers, nestled between mountains and the ocean – this is the ancestral homeland of the Alutiiq, or Sugpiaq, people who have called the rocky coasts and icy bays of the outer Kenai Peninsula home since time immemorial.

BOROUGH GOVERNMENT

Seward is located within the **Kenai Peninsula Borough** - incorporated in 1964 as a second-class borough.

An elected **Borough Mayor** serves as the chief administrator who works with an elected 9-member legislative assembly, on which Seward has one seat.

The Borough is responsible for area-wide education, solid-waste management, planning and zoning, taxation and assessment.

Local service area boards provide hospital, fire, and emergency services.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Seward is a city manager form of government, governed by a **Mayor** and **City Council** who are elected by the people of the City. The **City Manager** is appointed by the elected 7-person City Council, along with a **City Attorney** and **City Clerk**.

The Mayor and City Council act together as the **Governing Body**. The Governing Body, being the elected representative of the people, adopts all ordinances and resolutions and determines the general goals and policies of the city.

TAXATION

The city, along with the state of Alaska has no personal income tax. Real/ personal property tax within the city is at a low 3.12 mils. The real/personal property tax outside the city but within the borough is at 4.5 mils with an additional .5 mils for the Seward/ Bear Creek Area Flood Service Board.

The sales tax for Seward is 4%. The sales tax for the Borough is 3%. Seward also has a 4% bed tax.



CITY MANAGER

Janette Bower, City Manager

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2022 GOVERNING BODY

Christy Terry, Mayor

Term expires October 2022

Sue McClure, Vice Mayor

Term expires October 2023

John Osenga

Term expires October 2024

Liz DeMoss

Term expires October 2023

Ristine Casagrande

Term expires October 2022

Mike Calhoon

Term expires October 2024

Randy Wells

Term expires October 2022

FULL FUNDING FOR THE CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY CORP OF ENGINEERS LOWELL TUNNEL OUTFALL DIVERSION STRUCTURE. (FEDERAL)

The district aims to construct a new flood diversion system for Lowell Creek in Seward, Alaska. Upgrades include a new 18-foot diameter tunnel and diversion dam upstream from the current tunnel; refurbishment to the existing tunnel; extension of the outfall by 150-feet to carry creek flow and debris over Lowell Point Road; and canopy to protect the tunnel inlet from landslides. The plan also calls for select tree removal that in a flood event could block the tunnel if swept up.

The Project was started in 2016 as a 3-year study with the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). The total for the study was \$3,000,000, of which the City of Seward paid half.

The USACE came back after 3 years for more money and extended the timeline. There was \$3 million of \$10 million for design in this year's infrastructure bill and the USACE is currently trying to get the full amount added in.

The project is expected to cost about \$185.2 million.





EXPANSION OF WATER AND SEWER INFRASTRUCTURE WHICH WILL INCREASE CONSTRUCTION OF NEW RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE FOREST ACRES SUBDIVISION. (STATE & FEDERAL)

The Forest Acres “Afognak Addition”-North Project will extend water and sewer mains northerly from Ash St approximately 1300’ down each; Maple St, Oak St, Pine St, and Afognak Ave to provide city services to the residential lots to the north. The project will include:

- Water mains looped together at the ends, fire hydrants, and stub-outs.
- Sewer mains with stub-outs, manholes and a large capacity lift station at the low end to move wastewater up the hill connecting to the gravity flow sewer system through town.

Residential housing has been an ongoing issue in Seward and this project will add lots for immediate construction of much needed housing.

EXPANSION OF WATER AND SEWER INFRASTRUCTURE WHICH WILL INCREASE CONSTRUCTION OF NEW RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT ON THE SEWARD MARINE INDUSTRIAL CENTER “BENCH.” (STATE & FEDERAL)

Water and Sewer infrastructure in the hillside area known as the “bench” near the Seward Marine Industrial Center area on the east side of Resurrection Bay in Seward. This area will would much provide needed housing opportunities for to address the shortage.

A feasibility study is underway and will provide more information on the options and necessary components that will be needed for providing water and wastewater infrastructure for this project.

This development of sanitary water and sewer would be a huge boost to take care of a shortage of housing that just keeps increasing.



FULL FUNDING OF THE ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS IN ORDER TO RETURN TO 100% FUNDING OF THE OPERATIONAL COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH OPERATING THE SEWARD COMMUNITY JAIL. (STATE)

In 2013, the City of Seward entered into a 5-year contract with the State of Alaska to run the community jail in Seward. The amount of the contract at that time was \$655,470.00 with the guarantee of an inflation adjustment annually not to exceed 2%. In 2015, the state amended the contract on the basis of budget cuts and voided the CPI increase language. The value of the contract dropped to \$368,952.00 where it has remained ever since. There have been no CPI increases and there have been no opportunities to negotiate. The state has never addressed employee wage changes, increases to benefit package costs, or increases to the costs of operation.

In terms of today's costs, it takes nearly \$800,000.00 per year to operate the Seward jail if it is fully staffed. For the last several years, we have operated the jail with open positions which has caused considerable savings overall at the cost of safety and morale. In 2021, we received the usual \$368,952.00 from the state but the jail's costs were \$654,009.42. So, even during the height of the COVID pandemic, despite the changes brought on by SB91, and despite our open employee positions, our costs were still far in excess of the contract amount. These costs are directly passed on to the local tax payer citizens of Seward, and the costs are not sustainable.

SEWARD COMMUNITY JAIL

The Seward Community Jail is a 14-bed, temporary detention facility operating under the State Contract Jail Program 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Although owned and operated by the City of Seward, the jail's operating funds are provided by the State of Alaska Department of Corrections.

The primary objective of the Seward Community Jail is the protection of the public and the safety and security of the detainees.

CRIMINAL DETENTION

The primary purpose of the Seward Community Jail is to provide short term detention for persons held on state criminal charges pending arraignment, bail release or transfer to another Department of Corrections facility. In addition, the jail provides detention for persons serving short term sentence requirements of 30 days or less.

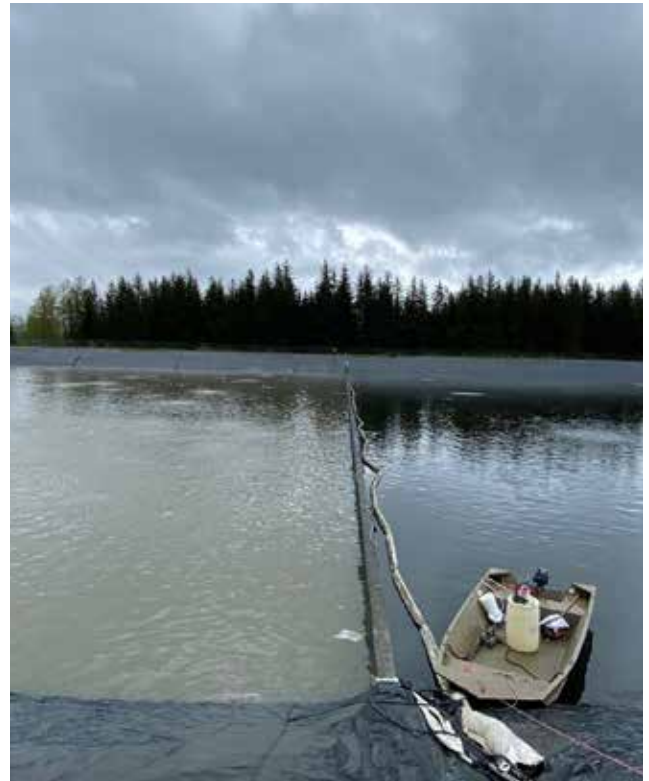


SLUDGE REMOVAL FOR THE LOWELL POINT AND SMIC SEWAGE TREATMENT LAGOONS. (STATE & FEDERAL)

The City of Seward has a sludge removal program in place for the two separate wastewater treatment plants. These programs are to complete sludge removal every 7-10 years depending on the depth of sludge measured yearly. The very high costs to complete is well out of what City ratepayers can afford. With this project we will also have to install a new liner and replace aeration equipment in the lagoon.

The current liner and aeration equipment are beyond the 30-year life span. We can only fund this program by utilizing grants and loan programs that are available. There is a one-to-two-year lead time to bidding, contracting, and scheduling this work.

The successful award of funding now will allow us to proceed with the lengthy and important process to get these lagoons modernized and cleaned. Estimated cost is \$2,000,000.



FULL FUNDING AND SUPPORT FOR THE SEWARD AIRPORT WHICH IS OPERATED BY THE STATE OF ALASKA. (STATE)

The Seward Airport, operated by the State of Alaska, is a vital life line for our community and its safety. With no over the road ambulance service, we have regular Medevac flights to get citizens, workers, and visitors the urgent medical care that they need. The US Coast Guard uses the airport regularly for local refueling and transport as well during rescue operations.

When there have been avalanches or slides and the road is closed, the airport is our only link for goods and supplies. Less urgent but also important is that it generates significant commerce for our community with businesses in the visitor industry.

We are requesting there to be funding for prioritized and regular maintenance



The Seward Airport is unmanned and operated by the State under visual flight rules. Some air service, flight-seeing and charter services are available. Two paved runways are utilized with one being 4,240' long by 100' wide, and the other is 2,279' long by 75' wide. Flight time to Anchorage is about 45 minutes.



REPLACEMENT OF OLD PIPING WITH NEW DUCTILE IRON PIPING THROUGHOUT SEWARD. (STATE & FEDERAL)

The City of Seward needs funding to replace existing galvanized and transite (AC – asbestos-cement) water mains. These problem mains are nearly 60 years old and well past their lifespan. The new ductile iron mains will replace and thus prevent the inevitable collapse and failure of the old water mains.

With available funding we will replace up to 1000 feet per year to keep safe drinking water for the community. Estimated cost is \$3,000,000.



SIDEWALK REPLACEMENT AND REFURBISHMENT THROUGHOUT THE CITY OF SEWARD. (STATE & FEDERAL)

Pedestrian Safety is a high priority in Seward as our visitors increase and our sidewalks continue to deteriorate. We have multiple sidewalks needing attention throughout Seward.

Securing grant and ADA funds for sidewalk replacement and refurbishment allows us to address ADA access issues for ramps, parking, and dangerous large cracks and broken concrete areas with high pedestrian traffic. Estimated cost is \$1,000,000.



FUNDING FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW PUBLIC WORKS FACILITY. (STATE & FEDERAL)

The Seward Public Works Facility was built in 1965 after the '64 earthquake. Relocating this facility from downtown has been a desire of this community for over 40 years. The relocation of the facility to a more commercial area with adequate acreage for a new equipment warm storage building, a maintenance repair shop, and other public works function are needed.

The current building is worn out and doesn't fit well in the more residential use district. It is too small, very inefficient, and critically inadequate for today's operations and staff.

This project is high on the City's priority list for funding. Completing this project asap will also free up 32 small downtown residential lots to the public and will greatly help with the housing shortage in Seward. Estimated cost is \$8,000,000.

SEWARD PUBLIC WORKS

Responsible for operations of the Water and Wastewater utilities, the Street Department, the City Shop, and limited Municipal Building maintenance. It is our mission to provide the City of Seward residents with prompt service and maintenance in a cost effective manner. The majority of our work consists of maintenance, repairs, and improvements of the City's streets, utilities, and equipment.

SERVICES

- Maintaining approximately 31 miles of paved and unpaved roads.
- Maintenance of 28+ miles of both water distribution and wastewater collection main lines.
- Maintaining the City's vehicle fleet.
- Providing snow removal and sanding for safe roads in the winter.



Current Public Works facility.



Conceptual examples of new Public Works Department facility.



FUNDING FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW FIRE DEPARTMENT FACILITY. (STATE & FEDERAL)

Built in 1963, the current fire station has long passed its useful lifespan. The 58-year-old station is the only emergency facility to house full-time administrative staff along with a compliment of volunteer responders and the fire and rescue apparatus.

The facility no longer conforms to industry national standards for safety and health to include the presence of asbestos, lack of appropriate storage for firefighter's protective gear, poor ventilation, lack of decontamination areas, and dangerous limited space in the apparatus bay. Not meeting these standards increases risks to not only personnel but also to personal protective equipment, apparatus, and community safety. The undersized building no longer supports modern apparatus, equipment and office space.

The fire station requires continued costly repairs, is not energy efficient, and cannot accommodate future growth and change over the next several years. Estimated cost is \$15,000,000.

SEWARD FIRE DEPARTMENT

Dedicated to the protection of life and property through prevention, education, and emergency response.

In 2006 Seward Volunteer Fire Fighters celebrated 100 years of service. Seward Fire Department and the City of Seward have an ISO classification of a 3/3Y.

The Seward Fire Department consists of the Fire Chief, the Deputy Fire Chief, Building Official, Building/Fire Inspector, and an Executive Assistant along with 25 dedicated volunteer firefighters and auxiliary members.



Current fire station.



Current fire station.

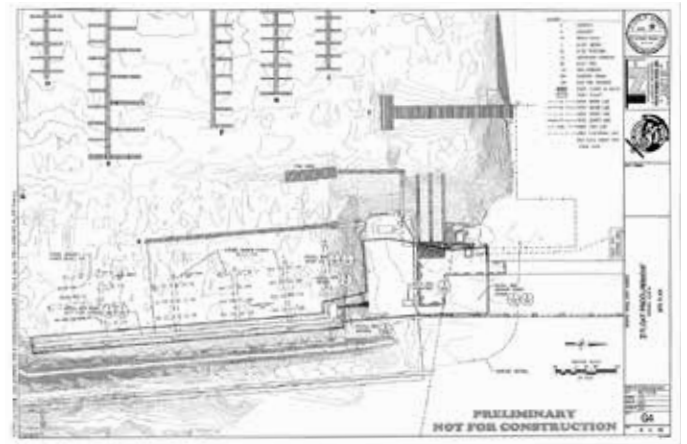
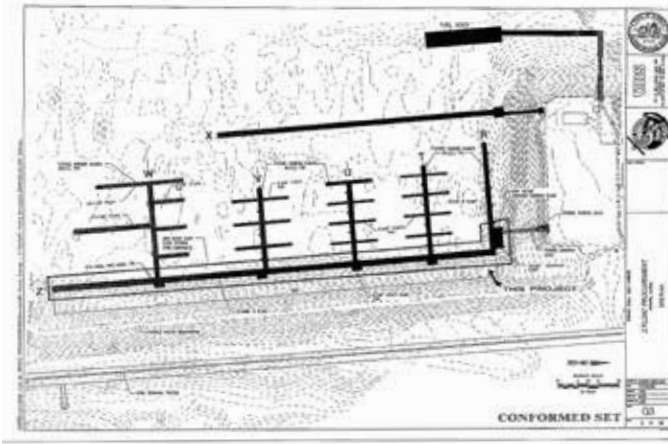


Conceptual example of new fire station.

FLOAT EXTENSION PROJECT IN THE HARBOR FOR Z FLOAT. (STATE & FEDERAL)

There is currently an extensive wait list for vessels in the Seward Harbor. The wait list is a barrier for businesses and economic growth with charter vessels, tugs, barges, personal vessels, and commercial transient vessels not having the places they need to operate.

The current wait list has been in existence for over 10 years when this was initially placed on the Capital Improvements List. There has been movement on this list but the overall list (of over 200) has not changed significantly with the oldest request currently still waiting since 2014. Estimated cost is \$5,000,000.



Established in 1964, Seward's boat harbor welcomes a variety of vessels including the local fishing fleet, charting fishing boats, tour boats, the US Coast Guard Cutter Mustang, and more.

CITY OF SEWARD - 2022 - 2027 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

ENTERPRISE FUNDS

<i>Department & Project Description</i>	<i>Forecasted Project Cost</i>
Harbor	
NE Launch Ramp	\$ 2,500,000.00
K, L & G float replacement	\$ 3,600,000.00
Replace Anodes on concrete floats	\$ 220,000.00
50 Ton wash down Pad	\$ 500,000.00
Electric on X-Float	\$ 800,000.00
5 ton crane on I-dock	\$ 500,000.00
Float Extension Z-Float	\$ 5,000,000.00
SMIC	
Additional Water Service	\$ 20,000.00
Improve Drainage	\$ 1,000,000.00
Fence Storage area	\$ 500,000.00
Additional power stalls	\$ 500,000.00
Pave City owned SMIC Roads	\$ 1,500,000.00
Finish North Dock Paving	\$ 1,000,000.00
Water	
Double wall fuel tank water	\$ 25,000.00
Design -Hypochlorite Generator -SMIC	\$ 37,500.00
Construction-Hypochlorite Gener.-SMIC	\$ 200,000.00
Water Meter Program - with auto-readers	\$ 250,000.00
Liftstation #1 mobile standby generator	\$ 150,000.00
Distribution Piping upgrades (ductile iron pipe)	\$ 3,000,000.00
Lowell Canyon 200K gallon Tank with 500K gallon tank	\$ 1,000,000.00
Gateway Tank Roof	\$ 150,000.00
Replace water lines - Elm Street	\$ 200,000.00
Well abandonment - Fort Raymond Property	\$ 45,000.00
Refurbish #4 production well	\$ 50,000.00
Heat Loop Project	\$ 3,600,000.00
Replace 10" and 14" AC water line btwn Phoenix and Sea Lion	\$ 250,000.00
Wastewater	
Manhole refurbishment	\$ 120,000.00
SMIC lower lift station (engineering only)	\$ 75,000.00
Two double wall fuel tanks. 25k in 2023-2025	\$ 25,000.00
SMIC lower lift station construction	\$ 225,000.00
SMIC piping for bypass design & construction	\$ 150,000.00
Wastewater Lagoon sludge removal	\$ 2,000,000.00
Water Meter Program - with auto-readers	\$ 250,000.00
Mobile Standby Generator	\$ 150,000.00
Replace infrastructure past useful life	\$ 330,000.00
Electric	
Nash Road Project	\$ 3,410,955.00
Seward Highway Transmission Upgrade	\$ 426,184.00
Substation Voltage Conversions	\$ 5,581,873.00
Spring Creek Substation Refurbishment	\$ 3,498,655.00
New Harbor Substation	\$ 2,104,077.00
New Transformers (7)	\$ 4,360,000.00
Stoney Creek Cable	\$ 200,000.00
Old Mill #3 - Cable	\$ 200,000.00
Questa Woods - Cable	\$ 100,000.00
Gateway Upper & Lower - Cable	\$ 190,000.00
Security Cameras - Fort Raymond	\$ 185,000.00
Radiator Hoods - Fort Raymond Plant	\$ 200,000.00
Parking	
Replace Parking Kiosks	\$ 100,000.00
Total:	\$ 50,479,244.00

GENERAL FUND

<i>Department & Project Description</i>	<i>Forecasted Cost</i>
Public Works	
Sidewalk and ADA ramp repairs	\$ 75,000.00
ADA Compliant Public Entr Modification	\$ 300,000.00
City Hall Parking Lot and Retaining Wall	\$ 55,000.00
Public Works Bldg Design & Engineering	\$ 125,000.00
Public Works Building Construction	\$ 8,000,000.00
Lowell Creek Flood Control Diversion Tunnel	\$ 185,000,000.00
Lowell Point Road FLAP Grant safety study	\$ 80,000.00
Library	
Library Emergency Exit Doors	\$ 15,000.00
Library Cameras	\$ 25,000.00
IT	
IT Dept- City Phone System	\$ 250,000.00
Fire Department & Police Department	
Feasibility & Design Engineer Fire Station	\$ 250,000.00
Public Safety Radios	\$ 280,000.00
Feasibility & Design Engineer Police Department	\$ 250,000.00
Public Safety or Police Building	\$ 15,000,000.00
Campgrounds	
Additional Campground Utility Sites	\$ 400,000.00
Resurface Campgrounds	\$ 200,000.00
Parks & Recreation	
Resurface Playgrounds	\$ 300,000.00
Replace N. Ballaine Playground Equipment	\$ 300,000.00
Construct Wellington Pavilion	\$ 400,000.00
Evaluate/Rebuild Lagoon Boardwalk	\$ 240,000.00
Cemetery - Columbarium	\$ 35,000.00
Cemetery - Ground Penetrating Radar	\$ 35,000.00
TYC Facility Renovation	\$ 75,000.00
Total:	\$ 211,690,000.00





City of Seward © 2022

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The City of Seward would like to acknowledge the Seward Chamber of Commerce & CVB for their invaluable partnership in economic development and destination marketing and management. Their work is supported by the thousands of annual visitors to Seward through a portion of the 4% bed tax collected by Seward's esteemed lodging providers, as voted by the citizens of Seward in the 1995 general October election via Initiative Ord. 95-001z, which took effect in November 1995, and was implemented January of 1996.

Branding, design, and photography elements for the 2022 City of Seward Legislative Priorities Report have been provided by the Seward Chamber of Commerce & CVB, as it continues to strive to fulfill its mission to keep Seward the best place in the world to live, work and play.

Seward
CHAMBER

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