

RESOLUTION NO. 5192, AS AMENDED

A RESOLUTION STATING THE CITY OF FAIRBANKS LEGISLATIVE AND CAPITAL PRIORITIES FOR 2026

WHEREAS, the City of Fairbanks appreciates any support and funding from the State of Alaska; and

WHEREAS, the City has identified the following legislative, operational, and capital priorities, and the public had an opportunity to hear about these priorities and to provide comment on the priorities at the regular City Council meeting of November 10, 2025.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL that the 2026 legislative, operational, and capital priorities of the City of Fairbanks are as follows:

2026 Priority Legislation

- Update AS 40.25.110 to allow for fees to be applied for any video copying and/or editing required for a public records request.
- Adjust legislation around child abandonment laws to allow for "baby boxes."

2026 Operational Priorities

- **Reduce the municipalities'** ~~Maintain a PERS rate of 22% or less for municipalities.~~
- Maintain a balance of \$90 million in the Community Assistance Fund.
- Maintain SART funding for to help communities meet testing liabilities.
- Require a natural gas line spur to Fairbanks at no expense to the community.
- Allow Tier 1, 2, and 3 PERS retirees to continue to collect retirement if they return to work to fill critical shortages under Tier 4.
- Mitigate municipalities' liability regarding the PFOS/PFOA ground water contamination and fund remediation efforts for PFOS/PFOA ground water contamination.
- Prioritize the development and expansion of a crisis behavioral health system in the **Fairbanks community** ~~State of Alaska.~~

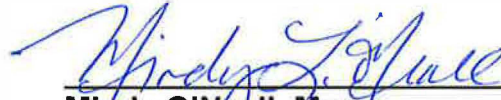
2026 Capital Priorities

- Provide \$800,000 for Alaska Land Mobile Radio (ALMR) compliant radios required by State of Alaska system upgrade.
- ~~Design and establish an Interior Alaska Regional Emergency Vehicle Operation Course track.~~
- ~~Provide \$1.5 million to refurbish the heating system in the historic City Hall.~~
- ~~Provide \$980,000 for event and emergency response barricades.~~

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Clerk is directed to send copies of this resolution to the Office of the Governor, ~~and the Interior Alaska Legislative Delegation,~~
and our representatives in Congress.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution is effective six days after adoption.

PASSED and **APPROVED** this 10th day of November 2025.


Mindy O'Neill, Mayor

AYES: APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT
NAYS: None
ABSENT: None
APPROVED: November 10, 2025

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:


D. Danyielle Snider, MMC, City Clerk


for Thomas Chard, City Attorney
Kaylee Stickel, Deputy City Attorney

2026 Priority Legislation

- **Update AS 40.25.110 to allow for fees to be applied for any video copying and/or editing required for a public records request.**

One of the most frequent record requests to the City of Fairbanks is for body/vehicle/ interview-room camera footage from the Fairbanks Police Department (FPD). While the FPD appreciates the ability to share these videos, the department must block out any identifying information that the requestor is not authorized to have. This information can include bystander faces, license plates, identification cards, etc. The video editing required for even a simple traffic stop can be quite time-consuming and expensive. Currently AS 40.25.110 only allows for fees to be collected for personnel costs of requests that exceed five person-hours in a calendar month, and other fees cannot exceed the standard unit cost of duplication. The City of Fairbanks requests that the State amend AS 40.25.110 to allow public agencies to establish a per-hour fee for video record requests.

- **Adjust legislation around child abandonment laws to allow for “baby boxes.”**

The Safe Haven Baby Boxes Program prevents illegal abandonment of newborns by raising awareness, offering a 24-hour hotline for mothers-in-crisis, and offering a last-resort surrender option. The primary purpose of the program is to eliminate infant death by abandonment. The use of baby boxes in the Interior will offer a method for preventing infant death due to abandonment.

2026 Operational Priorities

- **Reduce the municipalities' PERS rate of 22%.**

The majority of the 22% municipalities are mandated to pay goes to retire the legacy debt of the original defined benefit retirement plan (PERS). From FY2008 to FY2023, all PERS employers (State and municipalities) have paid an additional \$7.7 billion toward the unfunded liability. Locally, the FNSB and two cities within have paid \$132.2 million for their share of this liability. These payments, unfortunately, will continue for years to come. This is possibly the largest financial fiasco in the State's history. The municipalities had a reasonable expectation that the State would be proper stewards of these funds and learned far too late that this was incorrect. If State leaders truly feel that the new DB program will work, then we request that all municipalities be exempt from paying off any new debt created by this new plan. This would be fair, as the City of Fairbanks has no control over the management of these funds.

- **Maintain an annual baseline of \$90 million in the Community Assistance Program.**

The City of Fairbanks is concerned with the reductions in the community assistance program and requests the State restore a baseline of \$90 million annually to the program.

- **Maintain SART funding to help communities meet testing liabilities.**

The City of Fairbanks requests that the SART funding dedicated to Fairbanks be maintained to help offset the current costs of the demands.

- **Require a natural gas line spur to Fairbanks at no expense to the community.**

The City of Fairbanks realizes the creation of a new natural gas line provides an opportunity to bring a robust natural gas supply to Fairbanks. If the design of the new line does not include a spur to Fairbanks, it will become cost prohibitive to add it at a future date.

- **Allow Tier 1, 2, and 3 PERS retirees to continue to collect retirement if they return to work to fill critical shortages under Tier 4.**

With the nationwide labor pool shortages, allowing Tier 1, 2, and 3 PERS retirees to continue to collect retirement if they return to work could help fill critical staffing shortages in positions that fall under Tier 4. Many agencies are having difficulty finding good candidates for jobs, and a simple tweak to the current PERS system could create a huge pool of quality applicants for PERS positions. The basic concept is for the State of Alaska to allow PERS Tier 1, 2, & 3 employees to retire, collect their retirement, and return to the workforce under the Tier 4 system. This would allow them to be paid their retirement while rejoining the workforce and paying into the PERS system again. It would bring qualified and experienced workers back to PERS jobs and allow agencies to build back the workforce.

- **Mitigate municipalities' liability regarding the PFOS/PFOA ground water contamination and fund remediation efforts for PFOS/PFOA ground water contamination.**

The City of Fairbanks requests relief from the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) plume characterization requirements related to the Perfluoro octane Sulfonate (PFOS)/Perfluorooctanoic Acid (PFOA) contamination at the Fairbanks Regional Fire Training Center. The contamination at the training center occurred over decades of use by all the regional fire services including city, borough, and state agencies. The City also requests State funding for PFOS/PFOA mitigation efforts. PFOS/PFOA contamination is a world-wide health concern with countless contributing factors to the contamination. The City anticipates changes in PFOS/PFOA regulations will require additional mitigation

efforts, to include the decommissioning of private wells, which will cost more than the local community can afford.

- **Prioritize the development and expansion of a crisis behavioral health system in the Fairbanks community.**

The City of Fairbanks requests that the legislature prioritize funding for sustained services of the existing Mobile Crisis Teams (MCT) and the infrastructure needed for a Crisis Stabilization Center which will provide comprehensive, appropriate, and immediate provision of behavioral health services in Fairbanks, Alaska. The Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority has partnered with and supported Fairbanks financially by funding a MCT and a Crisis Now Coordinator for five years. It is imperative the state continues their evaluation work to increase reimbursement rates to begin to reach the actual costs of these crisis services.

The City of Fairbanks additionally requests that regulations of crisis stabilization centers not be overly restrictive and burdensome, creating an environment where only the largest operators in Anchorage have the ability to provide the full spectrum of crisis care. The goal of the City of Fairbanks is to support a welcoming center in the least restrictive setting to facilitate voluntary and involuntary admissions to relieve our first responders to include law enforcement, emergency medical services, dispatchers, mobile crisis team, mobile integrated health, and emergency service patrol.

To further address the unmet needs of behavioral health crisis, the City asks for continued support for Foundation Health Partners' efforts to stand up pediatric behavioral health inpatient services. The residents of Fairbanks need to know that assistance is available when their family member is experiencing their worst day. The pain and suffering of families and individuals struggling with a behavioral health crisis is greatly increased by being forced to seek care over 350 miles away from their home and support. It is a priority of the City that we treat behavioral health crisis here in Fairbanks.

2026 Capital Priorities

- **Provide \$800,000 for Alaska Land Mobile Radio (ALMR) compliant radios required by State of Alaska system upgrade.**

Over the last decade, police and fire radios have been nearing the end of their service life. Alaska Land Mobile Radio (ALMR), the digital radio service required by the State of Alaska, requires upgrades to the infrastructure and devices themselves. Several radios are past the ability to receive these updates and will need to be completely replaced. Some radios are broken and need to be repaired. According to ALMR, multiple police and fire vehicle and portable handheld radios' usability will expire by 2026.