City May Boost Jail Funds to Top of CIP List

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Jay Barrett/KMXT

After a lengthy meeting with Kodiak's delegation to the state legislature last night, look for the Kodiak City Council to make a change to it's state Capital Improvements Program List at its regular meeting tomorrow night.

Currently, the number one request is about 3.9-million dollars for an ultraviolet water treatment system, with 2.1-million dollars to build the jail portion of the public safety building in the number two spot. Councilman Tom Walters explained to Senator Gary Stevens and Representative Alan Austerman that it was the state that mandated how the jail be built, which the city does not have the money to finish.

-- (Jail 1 25 sec "They're the ones who ... really don't have the money.")

Austerman said the C-I-P list carries a lot of weight when different committees are deciding which projects to dole money out to:

-- (Jail 2 23 sec "I'm trying to explain the ... as number one priority.")

City Manager Aimee Kniaziowski (kenya-zhoff-ski) explained that the ultraviolet water treatment equipment comes from a different pot of money, but the city was compelled to put it at the top spot of the C-I-P:

-- (Jail 3 29 sec "But it was our hope that ... didn't make the funding cut.")

The fact that the city's water treatment request has already been turned down before the legislative session begins on Tuesday opens the door to the council passing a resolution changing the list, and putting the jail at the top. Stevens said he thought that would be a good idea:

-- (Jail 4 11 sec "I understand why you did that ... Let's do that.")

That last voice was Mayor Carolyn Floyd.

While not a capital project, the city may also modify its request for the state to fund a

survey of fishing boat crewmen, to better document the affect they have on the economies of fishing communities. After being pressed by Councilman Terry Haines, Austerman said he'd work with him if the parameters of the study were changed, and included a smaller funding request for a pilot project, perhaps in federal waters.

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