



December 22, 2023

The Honorable Bill Wielechowski  
Alaska State Legislature  
State Capitol, Room 103  
Juneau AK, 99801

RE: SOA Online Checkbook

Dear Senator Wielechowski,

The Division of Finance remains committed to meeting its obligation to provide transparency into the state and public corporation financial data as directed by SB 25 (**Chapter 68 SLA 22**). Please be aware, some public corporations do not use the state accounting system therefore additional systems and processes needed to be established first. The Division shares your vision for a user-friendly accessible platform.

The Division of Finance, in cooperation with the Shared Services data team, created a first generation of the new online checkbook for Power BI, which included an updated expenditure report. That new checkbook contains expenditure data for the state and public corporations that use IRIS as their accounting system. Revenue and fund balance reports have been developed for deployment soon after the holidays. \$77,616 of the \$315,000 fiscal note appropriation was used to reimburse Shared Services for their assistance in this development.

The Division of Finance has also completed the procurement of Online Checkbook Software from Tyler Technologies using NASPO ValuePoint Master Agreement # AR3764 in the amount of \$206,000. This contract is inclusive of \$26,000 in one-time services and \$60,000 in recurring costs for software, educational and support service until 2026. The project is scheduled to kick off in January and be completed by the end of the fiscal year, July 2024. The current implementation schedule is to have a version with the data visualization tools available by the end of April. The Division of Finance will provide monthly updates on approximately the 15<sup>th</sup> of every month and will populate the checkbook online with additional reports when they become available. The Power BI reports will be instrumental for launching the project with Tyler

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Technologies to provide data for display in the new software. Now that public corporations have completed their annual financial reports, the Division of Finance will work with them to include their data in the Power BI platform and the Tyler Technologies platform as soon as possible.

The employees within the division that are tasked with and capable of developing the ALDER reports that are the source material used for online checkbook, comprise the same team that is responsible for the State's Annual Comprehensive Financial Report as well as developing and maintaining the reports used to track all the state's financial activity. The team's time has many competing priorities, now that financial reporting season is coming to an end, online checkbook will be the priority. Every function of this team represents a statutory obligation or is necessary for the immediate successful fiscal operations of the State. Additionally, with the upgrade to IRIS Advanced, the division is now responsible for implementing two feature set updates a year as well as a tax release. When these changes happen, ALDER must be reprogrammed to incorporate the new configurations. At the time of the bill's passage, this was an unanticipated workload, that we are adjusting to for a timely completion of the new robust online checkbook.

If you need further information or have any additional questions, please feel free to reach back out to the Department of Administration.

Respectfully,



Robert Ervine

Acting Division of Finance Director