### **REFERENCE CODE:** AkAMH

### REPOSITORY NAME:

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Guide prepared by: Chloe Nielsen, Archivist

**TITLE**: Anchorage Fire Department Early Records

COLLECTION NUMBER: B1967.027

### **OVERVIEW OF THE COLLECTION**

Dates: 1921-1954

Extent: 0.5 cubic feet

Language and Scripts: The collection is in English.

Name of creator(s): Anchorage Fire Department; Anchorage City Clerk

Administrative/Biographical History:

"The Anchorage Fire Department was formed in 1915. It grew as a combination paid/volunteer organization to 50 personnel by 1951 when the first ambulance service began. In 1967, the first unification of services occurred when seven volunteer departments combined into the fully paid Greater Anchorage Area Borough Fire Department."1

Scope and Content Description:

This collection consists mainly of correspondence pertaining to the Anchorage Fire Department's operations and equipment, as well as some regarding law enforcement, public health, and other aspects of early Anchorage. This collection also includes a record book, documents detailing the specifications of firefighting equipment, booklets, and newspaper clippings.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> About AFD, Municipality of Anchorage, accessed April 21, 2022 https://www.muni.org/Departments/Fire/Pages/AboutAFD.aspx.

## Arrangement:

This collection was originally arranged (items given numbers) upon acquisition by the Cook Inlet Historical Society in 1967. At some point, a Museum archivist arranged these items into the folders they live in today.

### CONDITIONS GOVERNING ACCESS AND USE

Restrictions on Access: The collection is open for research use.

Physical Access: Most items are fragile but in good condition. Some are torn. Requires careful handling.

Technical Access: No special equipment is needed to access the materials.

Conditions Governing Reproduction and Use:

The Anchorage Museum is the owner of the materials and makes available reproductions for research, publication, and other uses. Written permission must be obtained from the Anchorage Museum before any reproduction use. The Anchorage Museum does not hold copyright to the collection. Records created by government entities (e.g., Fire Departments, City Clerk, mayors), are in the public domain. Records created under corporate authorship (e.g., A.G. Long Co., White Company) will enter the public domain 120 years from the date of creation, until which time copyright belongs to the creator.

Preferred Citation: Anchorage Fire Department Early Records, Anchorage Museum, B1967.27

### ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Acquisition and Appraisal Information

This collection was donated to the Cook Inlet Historical Society on September 20, 1967, by D.B. Rothermel, who received them from a fireman who saved them when the Fire Hall on 5<sup>th</sup> and F was moved or torn down, according to the accession file. CIHS transferred the collection to the Museum.

**Processing Note** 

At the time of description, 30 records (description taken from original inventory) could not be located and are considered missing:

- .1 Fire Hall Record Book dated 1922-1931
- .3 Anchorage Daily Times, April 28, 1958
- .4 Anchorage Daily Times, June 30, 1958; Statehood Extra
- .5 Anchorage Daily News, June 30, 1958; Statehood Extra [transferred to U of A for microfilming]
- .6 Anchorage Daily Times, July 1, 1958; Statehood

- .7 Anchorage Daily Times, March 30, 1959; 49th State Special
- .8 Anchorage Telephone Directory, May 1, 1959
- .9 City of Anchorage Audit Report, March 31, 1930 [4-page report]
- .10 Journal Vouchers Nos. 1-18, February 1, 1932, to March 31, 1924
- .11 Journal Vouchers Nos. 19-30A, April 1, 1924, to March 31, 1925
- .12 Auditor's Reports Nos. 2-6, 8
- .12a Auditor's Report No. 2, March 31, 1922, to February 17, 1923
- .12b Auditor's Report No. 3, February 18, 1923, to March 31, 1924
- .12c Auditor's Report No. 4, March 31, 1924, to March 31, 1925
- .12d Auditor's Report No. 5, March 31, 1925, to March 31, 1926
- .12e Auditor's Report No. 6, April 1, 1926, to March 31, 1927
- .12f Auditor's Report No. 8, April 1, 1928, to March 31, 1929
- .19g City Auditor's Report 1936 and 1937 [from a newspaper]
- .21b Proposal, Specification, Contract from the American-LaFrance-Fire Engine Company, Inc., April 3, 1922
- .23e [Letter from the Kissel Motor Co. to the City of Anchorage giving a quotation of specifications]
- .23t [Letter to the City Clerk in Anchorage from the White Company]
- .25d [Letter to the Seagrave Co. explaining the fire truck arrangements]

## **RELATED MATERIALS**

BL1991.014 – Anchorage Fire Department Logs

## SUBJECTS

Contracts Correspondence Engine Companies Fire Departments – Alaska – Anchorage Fire fighters – 1920-1950 Letters Newspapers Telegraph

Detailed Description of the Collection

.1 – [missing] .2 – Fire Hall Record Book dated 1931-1941 .3-12 – [missing]

## Folder 1 City of Anchorage Health

- .13 Speech and papers regarding health and sanitation in Anchorage
- .13a [Handwritten speech delivered to the Mayor and City Council by "representatives of the mothers of this community," signed by Anna J. Gottstein, Mrs. E.S. Wuletherge [?], Jeanette Mumford, and Marie Schodde]
- .13b [Letter from the City Clerk to Mr. F.I. Reed concerning the dog kennels and the necessity of cleaning them]
- .13c [3-page letter from E.M. Spalding, Health Officer to the City Council, regarding the milk supply in Anchorage], October 2, 1923
- .13d [Letter from Rex F. Swartz, City Health Officer to the Anchorage School Board, regarding the school facilities], May 9, 1928
- .13e [2-page letter from O.S. Gill, Chairman of the Health and Relief Committee, to George A. Parks, Governor of Alaska, concerning the need of a Federal or a territorial Health Officer in Anchorage], January 16, 1931
- .13f [Letter in reply to C.S. Gill from the Governor regarding the serum and antitoxin needed in Anchorage], January 23, 1931
- .13g [Letter from Harry C. DeVigne, Commissioner of Health to Mr. O.S. Gill, in regard to the needed serum and Health Officer in Anchorage], January 26, 1931
- .13h [Quarantine notice signed by O.S. Gill, Chairman of the Board of Health], January 13, 1936
- .13i [Postal telegraph to W.W. Council, Territorial Health Officer, from A.S. Walkowski, City Health Officer, concerning a typhoid epidemic in Bristol Bay and the need of a vaccine], July 24, 1936
- .13j [Letter to H.E. Brown, Mayor of the City of Anchorage, from A.S. Walkowski, City Health Officer, regarding the unsanitary conditions near the packing companies], July 28, 1936

# Folder 2 History of Alaska Steamship Company

.14 – History of the Alaska Steamship Company [11-page report covering 1894-1953] .15 – [Alaska Steamship Company newspaper item, 6 pages], March 2, 1955 [see Folder 8 for .16]

# Folder 3 City of Anchorage Administration

.17 – Aviation and Aeronautics papers

- .17a [Letter to the United States Army Air Service, Washington, D.C., from the City Clerk requesting \$3,000 to be used in the construction of an Airplane Hangar], March 4, 1926
- .17b [10-page report to Harllee Branch, Assistant Postmaster General, from the Mayor containing data compiled by the Anchorage Aeronautics Commission regarding airmail to Anchorage], September 7, 1934
- .18 Sale and wintering of horses
- .18a Sale of Horses [notice of bids to be received for t sale of the city team], November 1, 1923

- .18b [Bill of Sale of the City garbage team of horses for the sum of \$600 to Dave Patterson, with receipt], June 2, 1923
- .18c Bill of Sale of Horses [original of b]
- .18d [Letter from S.F. Hunt to W.A. English, City Clerk, regarding the wintering of horses, November 29, 1923; and reply, December 7, 1923]
- .19 [Miscellaneous papers]
- [see Folder 4 for .19a, c, e, I, k]
- .19b [Letter to Peter Dykes from the City Clerk concerning the car that was left parked on Fourth Ave, obstructing traffic], January 6, 1930
- .19d [Letter to the Police Committee from the Chief of Police regarding the dynamite found in a cabin], June 17, 1924
- .19f [Bid of \$300 for the City Team and harnesses from Martin Ostland], September 30, 1924 .19g – [missing]
- .19h [Letter to the City of Anchorage from H.S. Horton regarding the sanitary conditions of his dwelling, sewer problems], August 4, 1928
- .20 [Papers concerning law enforcement]
- .20a Misdemeanor Warrant [summoning R. Johnson], July 16, 1932
- .20b [Letter to Mr. W.J. Boudreau from the city clerk concerning a building that was a fire hazard], August 22, 1932
- .20c [Letter to Mr. Robert W. Taylor, Clerk U.S. District Court, from the Municipal Magistrate introducing a transcript that was once enclosed], December 22, 1932
- [see Folder 6 for .20d-e, i-l]
- .20f [Letter to Mr. Marian Simich, Seattle, from R.S. Bragaw, Anchorage City Clerk, regarding the dilapidated condition of a building posing a fire hazard. Registered Article Receipt and Return Receipt attached], November 8, 1935
- .20g [Letter to the Mayor and City Council from the Attorney General requesting information about laws that need reviving, repealing, etc.], February 20, 1936
- .20h Notice to Remove Buildings, 3 pages [includes resolution and Return Receipt], October 9, 1939
- .26d [Notice that the City team of horses and harnesses are open for bid until October 1, 1924]
- [see Folder 8 for .27-29 and .30b-d, f]
- .30a [Letter to the Mayor and City Council from A.G. Thompson, Attorney at Law, regarding the building on Lot II, Block 69, as a fire hazard and the legal authority to have it removed]
- .30e [Bill of Sale to Dave Patterson for the sum of \$600 for the City Garbage Team]

# Folder 4 City of Anchorage Miscellaneous

.19a – Public Notice [regarding the damage done by dogs running loose]

[see Folder 3 for .19b, d, f-h]

- .19c [Letter to Auto Drivers concerning the proper driving and parking policies]
- .19e Alaska, the Great Land, [15-page booklet, distributed by The Anchorage Insurance Agents Association, Inc.]

.19i – A City On the Move, William S. Foster, pamphlet, November 1954
.19k – [City Council meeting agenda]
[see Folder 3 for .20, .26d, and .30a, e; see Folder 8 for .27-29 and .30b, f]
.30d – [List of Christmas donations to the Fire Department in 1936]
Unnumbered – [notes about Merrill and Wein flights]
Unnumbered – [Bank of Alaska counter check]
Unnumbered – [newspaper clippings]

# Folder 5 Brief History – Early Anchorage

.19j – A City is Born—And Reborn, 7-page report [see Folder 3 for .19b, d, f-h; see Folder 4 for .19a, c, e, i-k] Unnumbered – [9-page history/report of Fire Department events 1918-1920]

# Folder 6 History of Anchorage Police

[see Folder 3 for .20a-c, f-h]

- .20d [Telegram to W.S. Darley and Co. from the City of Anchorage ordering law enforcement equipment (guns, cartridges, hand cuffs, etc.)], October 30, 1934
- .20e [Letter to the City of Anchorage from the W.S. Darley and Co. in reply to .20d], November 6, 1934
- .20i Call for Bids, [Police Committee advertising bids for the sale of guns, magazines, and ammunition], July 27, 1940
- 20j [Letter to Mr. A.M. Hewitt, Chairman of Police Committee, from James H. Patterson, U.S. Marshal, regarding the jurisdiction of the Deputy U.S. Marshal in Anchorage, July 26, 1940; letter to Mr. Patterson from the Acting Mayor, July 18, 1940]
- .20k [2 telegrams and 3 letters between Chas. A. Mathewson of Anchorage, Dan Sutherland, Delegate to Congress, Fred J. Spach, City Clerk of Anchorage, John C. Sargent, U.S. Attorney General, Mabel Walker Willebrandt, Assistant Attorney General, and the Anchorage Police Committee regarding the authority of the U.S. Deputy Marshal, dated between April 1926 and July 1928
- .201 [2 receipts, 6 telegrams, and 1 letter to Mr. Thomas C. Price, U.S. Commissioner, from C.J. Todd, U.S. Marshal, regarding the Indigent Yakasoff family, all dated November 1924]

# Folder 7 Specifications on LaFrance Fire Engine

.21 – [Proposals for furnishing Fire Apparatus]

- .21a Proposal, Specification, contract from the American-LaFrance-Fire Engine Company, Inc., Portland, Ore., January 25, 1921
- .21b [missing]
- .21c Proposal, Specification, Contract from the American-LaFrance-Fire Engine Company, Inc., April 14, 1922

[see Folder 8 for .22-23]

.23s – The White Company Model 20-45 Combination Chemical and Hose Car with Single Tank Equipment [proposal, separated from letter in Folder 8]

## Folder 8 Correspondence

.16 – Official Primary Ballot (Republican Party), election date April 25, 1922

- .22 [Papers pertaining to the Fire Department], 1920
- .22a [Letter to several cities inquiring about the type of firefighting equipment used by that city], undated
- .22b [Letter to the American-LaFrance-Fire Engine Co. from the City Clerk requesting information on a fire engine], December 14, 1920
- .22c [Letter to the Kissell Motor Car Co. from the City Clerk requesting information on their fire engines]
- .22d [Letter to the fire chief in Anchorage from the fire chief in Juneau giving information on their apparatus]
- .23 [Letters from the Anchorage Fire Department], 1921
- .23a [Letter to Mr. J. Conroy from the Chief of the Fairbanks Fire Dept. in reply to a letter from Anchorage regarding the fire equipment used there]
- .23b [Letter to the City of Anchorage from the Kissel Motor Car Co. regarding the fire truck information requested]
- .23c [Letter to the Clerk and Treasurer, M.J. Conroy, from the Great Falls Fire Dept. giving information of their fire equipment]
- .23d [Letter to Mr. Conroy from the City of Missoula giving information about their equipment]
- .23e [missing]
- .23f [2-page letter from the City of Regina to M.J. Conroy with the information of their fire equipment]
- .23g [Letter from the Robinson Fire Apparatus Mfg. Co. giving information about the equipment they manufacture]
- .23h [Letter to Mr. A.G. Long from the Clerk. Attached are a telegram, a letter previously written, and specifications]
- .23i [Letter to Ajax Fire Engine Works requesting information about a fire engine for the City of Anchorage (incomplete)]
- .23j [3-page letter to Mr. Conroy from A.G. Long Fire Department Equipment giving information on the American LaFrance motor apparatus]
- .23k [Telegram to M.J. Dolan, Fire Dept. Chief, from A.G. Long fiving information on the American-LaFrance fire engines]
- .23I [Letter to Mr. A.A. Shonbeck from the City Clerk requesting information on a modern motor fire truck]
- .23m [Letter from the City Clerk to Mr. A.G. Long in reply to the proposal for furnishing fire apparatus]
- .23n [2-page letter to the City of Anchorage from Ajax Fire Engine Works giving information about their fire engines]
- .230 [Letter from A.G. Long to Mr. Conroy stating they will not forward an engine until financial arrangements are made]

- .23p [Letter from the City Clerk to the White Company requesting information about their fire engines; attached to reply letter giving information about a new Snow Loader]
- .23q [Letter from the Fire Chief in the City of Nelson, B.C., giving information about the fire apparatus used in that city]
- .23r [Letter to Mr. Conroy from the White Company stating that they will send information on the fire apparatus they manufacture]
- .23s [Letter to the White Company thanking them for the proposal they sent regarding firefighting apparatus; proposal separated into Folder 7]
- .23t [missing]
- .23u [Letter to the President of the Anchorage Chamber of Commerce, Mr. A.A. Schonbeck, from the A.G. Long Fire Department Equipment stating that they will send a fire apparatus catalog]
- .23v [Letter to the White Company stating that the City Council has not decided as to the installation of a motor fire apparatus, and a reply from the White Company; reply is missing]
- Unnumbered [2 letters to City Clerk from White Company, dated June 10 and July 26, 1921]
- .24 [Letters and papers dated 1922]
- .24a [Letter to Mr. Longacre from H.P. Warren, General Storekeeper, with a copy of a wire sent to Mr. Dole regarding the cost of fire equipment]
- .24b [Letter to Mr. A.A. Shonbeck from the City Clerk requesting him to obtain the best price for a LaFrance triple pump combination pump chemical and hose car]
- .24c [Letter to Mr. A.A. Shonbeck requesting that he secure a young, active experience fire fighter to take charge of the Anchorage Fire Department]
- .24d [Copy of a telegram to Dole from Warren regarding fire engine; a letter to Mr. E.C. Dole; and a letter from the A.G. Long Co. to the Alaskan Engineering Commission]
- .24e [Telegram to Councilman Longacre from the Seagrave Co.]
- .24f [3-page Memorandum of Bill for Collection from the Department of the Interior to the City of Anchorage listing the property at Fire Department sold to the City of Anchorage]
- .24g [3-page letter to Mr. A.A. Shonbeck, President of the Chamber of Commerce, from the A.G. Long Co. concerning the data and equipment with a Type 12 motor car]
- .24h [Letter to Mr. Longacre from H.P. Warren giving a copy of a telegram to him]
- .24i [2 letters to Mr. Conroy, City Clerk, from the A.G. Long Co. with proposals from a Double Jacket, Cotton Rubber Lined Fire Hose and the American-LaFrance Type Pumping Engine and Hose Motor Car]
- .24j [Telegram to Mr. A.A. Shonbeck from W.S. Long stating that the Specification on a 1,000-gallon LaFrance machine had been mailed]
- .24k [Letter to Mr. A.A. Shonbeck, President of the Chamber of Commerce, from W.S. Long; and a letter to Mr. Carl E. Martin from W.S. Long]
- .24I [3-page letter to the Mayor and Council from W.S. Long with a proposal for a fire engine; attached are proposal and contract]

- .24m [Telegram to W.S. Horning from Ingersoll-Rand Company stating prices for fire equipment; attached are itemized lists of equipment prices]
- .24n [Letter to M.J. Conroy, City Clerk, from the Federal Electric Company regarding the Federal Siren which was installed in Anchorage]
- .240 [4 telegrams: to George Mantor, Fire Chief in Seattle, from M.J. Conroy, City Clerk, regarding Battalion Chief Rogers; to M.J. Conroy from George Mantor to confirm transportation and salary for Battalion Chief Rogers; to M.J. Conroy from George Mantor that Chief Rogers leaving Seattle as soon as arrangements are made; to Chief Fire Department from City Clerk requesting a competent firefighter to help Anchorage make proper fire precautions]
- .24p [Letter of introduction to Mr. M.J. Conroy from George Mantor introducing Battalion Chief Robert D. Rogers]
- .24q [Report to the City Council from Chief Rogers regarding the inspection of the firefighting facilities in Anchorage]
- .24r [Order to Mr. C.E. Dole, General Purchasing Agent, Seattle, for one American-LaFrance pumping engine and motor car and 500 feet for Fire Hose; attached are a letter to the Alaskan Engineering Commission advising them of the purchase and a notice to the A.G. Long Co. advising them of the engine purchase and requesting delivery as soon as possible]
- .24s [Letter to Mr. George M. Mantor, Chief of the Fire Department Seattle, from the City Clerk thanking them for the services of Battalion Chief Rogers]
- .24t [Cablegram to Warren, Anchorage from Dole], June 24, 1922
- .24u [Telegram to Mears, Anchorage from Dole], June 28, 1922
- .24v [Telegram to Dole, Seattle from Mears regarding the increase in price quotations]
- .24w [Copy of telegram received to Mr. Warren from Dr. Dole explaining the error in price quotations]
- .24x [Copy of telegram received to Mr. Mears from Mr. Dole explaining the error in price quotations and the price of delivery]
- .24y [Telegram to Dole in Seattle from Mears stating the satisfactory conditions and requesting that the shipment be rushed all possible]
- .24z [Letter to the City Council from H.B. Warren, General Storekeeper enclosing a copy of a letter written by the A.G. Long Co.]
- .25 [Papers and letters dated 1922, continued]
- .25a [Letter to M.J. Conroy, City Clerk, from F. Mears, Chairman, enclosing a bill covering property at Fire Hall turned over to the City]
- .25b [Letter to the City Clerk from C.E. Butts, Branch Manager of the Seagrave Company, requesting information about the fire apparatus purchased]
- .25c [Telegram to the Mayor and Fire Chief of Fairbanks inviting them to a public demonstration of the new 1,000-gallon American-LaFrance fire truck and a reply from Jack O'Conner, Fire Chief, stating his regret in his inability to attend]
- .25d [missing]

- .25e [Letter to Col. F. Mears from the City Clerk regarding financial arrangements made for the purchase of fire apparatus; attached is a letter to the City of Anchorage from Mears with an itemized list of expenses in addition to the initial purchase]
- .25f [Letter to the City of Anchorage from Mears requesting a remittance of \$453.79 for the fire engine]
- .25g [Letter to the City of Anchorage from Mears regarding the payment for the fire engine and an itemized statement of charges]
- .25h [Telegram to the Board of Fire Underwriters of Pacific from the Arctic Fire Chief explaining the new pumping engines and the standby horse drawn apparatus]
- .25i [Letter to the Alaskan Engineering Commission from the City Clerk, referring to the bill for the fire engine]
- .25j [Letter to the Alaskan Engineering Commission from the City Clerk to enclose a check in payment for the fire engine and hose]
- .26 [Letters and papers dated 1923 and 1924]
- .26a [Report from the Fire Chief to the Mayor and City Council], January 1, 1923
- .26b [Complete inventory of property in possession of Fire Department], April 14, 1923
- .26c [Letter to the Anchorage City Council from the Master Mechanic requesting a new means of signaling firemen]
- .26e [2-page letter to Mr. W.A. English, City Clerk, from A.G. Long Co. quoting the prices and specifications for a Browder Life Saving Net and an American-LaFrance tressed Extension Ladder], April 17, 1924
- .27 [Letters and papers dated 1925]
- .27a [Letter to Mr. Thomas Bevers, Fire Marshal, from the A.G. Long Co. inquiring about broken parts that have not yet been received by the Company]
- .27b [Letter to Mr. W.S. Long from Thomas S. Bevers explaining that the broken parts were to be shipped to Elmira, New York]
- .27c [Letter to Mr. W.L. Wanamaker from Thomas S. Bevers explaining the problem of broken parts for the Fire Engine]
- .27d [Letter to Mr. Thomas S. Bevers from the A.G. Long Co. explaining the procedure when repairing broken or defective parts]
- .27e [Itemized statement of equipment from the A.G. Long Co.]
- .27f [2-page letter to Mr. Thomas S. Bevers from the A.G. Long Co. having received the broken parts]
- .27g [Letter to Mr. S.P. Wright from Thomas S. Bevers to explain the breakage of parts]
- .28 [Letters and papers concerned with the Fire Department in 1926]
- .28a [Letter to City Clerk from S.P. Wright, Manager of the A.G. Long Co., requesting a remittance for the fire equipment]
- .28b [Letter to Mr. Thomas S. Bevers from J.L. Waller, Attorney at Law, in attempt to clear up legal problems connected with fire engine purchase]

- .28c [Statement of account and letter to City of Anchorage regarding payment for broken parks; and a letter enclosing payment for the fire hose]
- .28d [Letter to Mr. B.J. Shaffer from the Fire Marshall explaining the nature of the breakage as seen by the Fire Committee and asking for a settlement satisfactory to all]
- .28e [Letter to Mr. Thomas S. Bevers from B.J. Shaffer, Auditor, that credit for the broken material cannot be given and the value of the scrap material is \$21.40]

.29 – [Letters and papers dated 1927 and 1928]

- .29a [Letter to the City Clerk from the A.G. Long Co. stating that the remittance mailed to them is \$29.07 short of the full payment], March 7, 1927
- .29b [Letter from the A.G. Long Co. to Mr. D.W. Stoddard, City Clerk and Treasurer, thanking him for the itemized deduction], March 9, 1927
- .29c [Letter from the City Clerk to the Board of Fire Underwriters of the Pacific requesting reduced fire rates now that the fire engine is operating, and a reply from the District Secretary]

.30 – [Undated papers and notices regarding the Fire Department in Anchorage]

- [see Folder 3 for .30a, e; see Folder 4 for .30d]
- .30b [Pamphlet explaining the Firemen's Fund Law put out by the Anchorage Volunteer Fire Department]
- .30c [Notice to the Volunteer Firemen explaining some of their duties and responsibilities]
- .30f [Letter to the Alaskan Engineering Commission from the City Clerk requesting the AEC to carry the Fire Chief and two firemen on their payroll for 2 months]

Guide written: April 2022