

Alaska Land Mobile Radio - FCC Narrowbanding Phase 2**FY2008 Request:****\$450,000****Reference No:****41410****AP/AL:** Appropriation**Project Type:** Health and Safety**Category:** Public Protection**Location:** Statewide**Contact:** Leta Simons**House District:** Statewide (HD 1-40)**Contact Phone:** (907)465-2400**Estimated Project Dates:** 05/01/2008 - 06/30/2010**Brief Summary and Statement of Need:**

This project funds the Division of Forestry's migration to FCC mandated narrow banding by January 1, 2013 and to Alaska Land Mobile Radio (ALMR) standards. Replacement of old, obsolete equipment and communications infrastructure will ensure radio capability necessary for interoperability with state, federal and local cooperators when responding to wildland fires and other disasters and emergencies. This project supports the state's telecommunications plan (protects life and property) and contributes to the Department's mission by providing initial attack/emergency response readiness critical to conserving the state's natural resources.

Funding:	FY2008	FY2009	FY2010	FY2011	FY2012	FY2013	Total
Gen Fund	\$450,000						\$450,000
Total:	\$450,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$450,000

<input type="checkbox"/> State Match Required	<input type="checkbox"/> One-Time Project	<input type="checkbox"/> Phased - new	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Phased - underway	<input type="checkbox"/> On-Going
0% = Minimum State Match % Required		<input type="checkbox"/> Amendment	<input type="checkbox"/> Mental Health Bill	

Operating & Maintenance Costs:

	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Staff</u>
Project Development:	0	0
Ongoing Operating:	0	0
One-Time Startup:	0	0
Totals:	0	0

Additional Information / Prior Funding History:

SLA2006/CH82 - ALMR Emergency Response FY07 - \$ 615.6; Portable and mobile radios purchased and deployed. Portable radio upgrades not yet available from the manufacturer. ETS engineering developing repeater replacement plan.

Project Description/Justification:

It is critical that Forestry migrate the Division's repeaters, base stations, portable and mobile radios to Project 25 standards for interoperability, while transitioning to the new statewide trunk radio system (ALMR). Forestry will replace analog radio equipment with equipment (repeaters, links, base stations, radios) that will comply with FCC narrow banding standards and operate on the statewide trunked system, allowing for compatible communications with federal, state and municipal, and other local cooperators for emergency response.

Forestry has wildland fire suppression responsibility for approximately 150 million acres of land within the State and responds to 300-400 wildland fires a year, the majority in the urban interface. The Division of Forestry currently has an extensive two-way radio communications network that utilizes the state's microwave system and a series of 31 mountain-top repeaters. In addition to remote and urban interface fires, Forestry personnel, resources, village emergency fire fighting crews and the interagency Type I and Type II Incident Command Teams have also quickly responded to and managed other all-risk incidents both within and outside of Alaska including floods, hurricanes, earthquakes and oil spills.

Forestry has worked closely with DMVA Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and the Small Business Administration to manage a variety of natural and economic disasters in Alaska. Forestry assists the Alaska State Troopers with search and rescue missions on the average of 5 - 6 times a year. Based on historical activity, it is highly probable that the Division's personnel and resources, including the use of its extensive off-road radio system, cache of portable radios, and mobile units will be called upon to assist in responding to any man-made or natural disaster within the State.

Why is this Project Needed Now?:

Forestry's federal non-military cooperators have already migrated to narrow band frequencies in support of bandwidth efficiency by FCC mandate. Department of Defense (DOD) cooperators have migrated to trunked radio systems. Site build out of the Alaska Land Mobile Radio System (ALMR) is occurring now and nearing completion statewide. The Alaska State Troopers migrated to ALMR in July 2006. Lack of compatible radio systems and communications interoperability has been cited on numerous occasions as a threat to safety for emergency responders and the public. 2006 Parks Highway, and the 2007 Su River and Caribou Hills fires are recent examples of multi-agency response incidents in which the need for communications interoperability was cited. In 2007 communications and responder safety were reinforced with integration of the ALMR system between Forestry and local cooperators in the Mat-Su and Kenai Peninsula Boroughs. The City of Fairbanks and Fairbanks North Star Borough, along with several other local entities statewide, now utilize ALMR primarily for two-way radio communications.

Specific Spending Detail:

<u>LINE ITEM</u>	<u>DOLLAR AMOUNT</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION (text)</u>
Personal Services	\$ 5,000	Project administration (Division Of Forestry Communications Coordinator)
Travel	\$ 2,500	Travel for DOA/ETS technicians
Services	\$ 50,000	RSA for ETS procurement and installation of equipment
Commodities	\$ 200,000	40 portable radios w/ programming
Capital Outlay	\$ 192,500	seven repeaters/links with programming and installation

Project Support:

State agencies participating include the Alaska Court System; Alaska Railroad; Department of Administration; Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development; Department of Corrections; Department of Education and Early Development; Department of Environmental Conservation; Department of Fish and Game; Department of Natural Resources; Department of Revenue; Department of Transportation and Public Facilities; the Office of the Governor and the University of Alaska.

Federal agencies participating include the US Departments of Agriculture, Commerce, Justice, Interior, Treasury, and Transportation. US Air Force and Army are also participants in this project.

The State Telecommunications Plan and the ALMR Steering Committee and Executive Council support this project.

Project Opposition:

No known opposition and none anticipated.