

Fire Fighting Equipment Replacement Phase 2

FY2009 Request: \$500,000
Reference No: 41432

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: 07/01/2008 - 11/01/2008

Brief Summary and Statement of Need:

This project funds replacement of critical firefighting equipment including pumps, chainsaws, portable generators, banding equipment and fire engine tools. This project contributes to the department's mission by providing the initial attack fire readiness critical to conserving the state's natural resources and protecting life and property. This project is phase 2 of 2.

Funding:	FY2009	FY2010	FY2011	FY2012	FY2013	FY2014	Total
Gen Fund	\$500,000						\$500,000
Total:	\$500,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$500,000

<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
<u>One-Time Startup:</u>	0	
Totals:	0	0

Additional Information / Prior Funding History:

SLA06/CH82 \$ 150.0 95% complete.

Project Description/Justification:

AS 41.15.010 - 170 gives wildland fire protection responsibility to the Department of Natural Resources. This project supports the Division of Forestry's mission of containing 90% of fires occurring in the critical and full protections areas at 10 acres or less. This project will continue a phased replacement plan for critical fire fighting equipment such as pumps, chainsaws, and other equipment that began in fiscal year 2007. The division is implementing an equipment replacement program since we are currently repairing equipment that is over 20 years old. As one example, Forestry currently utilizes an inventory of 105 Mk-26 pumps and is the only suppression agency in the country still using Mark-26 pumps. These pumps and spare parts purchased over 20 years ago are now obsolete. The continued funding of the replacement program will allow the Division to phase out the obsolete Mk-26 pumps. The average cost of replacement is \$3.0 per pump. Another example is that some of the division chainsaws are over 17 years old. Shop personnel continue to repair old equipment, and in some cases the cost of repair may exceed the cost of a new saw. Replacing Forestry saws will allow the division to carry less spare parts inventory since this will reduce the number of chainsaw models being maintained. This equipment is critical for successful initial attack and is continually used in the urban interface where equipment failure that could conceivably result in a large fire cannot be risked. This replacement program would call for the purchase of 200 chainsaws, 105 Mk-26 pumps, 50 lightweight pumps, 20 portable generators, and four banding machines used to package firefighter supplies for field delivery.

This project will not directly reduce the total state costs. It will diminish the risk of a wildland fire escaping initial attack suppression efforts due to equipment failure of fire fighting equipment. It will also maximize expenditures more wisely toward

new replacement equipment rather than getting diminishing returns on obsolete equipment. Funding this project will allow the division to establish a systematic replacement program for vital fire fighting gear.

Why is this Project Needed Now?:

The useful life of a fire line chainsaw is estimated to be five years; and the useful life of a fire line pump is estimated at ten years. The majority of pumps, chainsaws, and equipment now in service by the State are 10-20 years old. There is a need to replace old, worn out and obsolete equipment in a planned manner. This CIP will allow implementation of a replacement schedule to responsibly manage equipment both fiscally and for useful life maximization. The quick containment of wildland fires and the safety of firefighters and the general public will increase with reliable equipment and an adequate number of trained firefighters.

Specific Spending Detail:

<u>LINE ITEM</u>	<u>DOLLAR AMOUNT</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION (text)</u>
Commodities	\$ 500,000	See below

Items to replace:	Item		
105 MK-26 Pumps	\$3000	\$315,000	
200 Stihl Saws	\$ 550	\$110,000	
50 Lightweight Pump	\$ 800	\$ 40,000	
20 Generators	\$1000	\$ 20,000	
4 Banding Machines	\$2500	\$ 10,000	
Pump and Saw Parts		\$ 5,000	

TOTAL \$500,000

Project Support: This project is supported by the Alaska Fire Chiefs Association, Interior Fire Chiefs Association, Kenai Peninsula Borough, the Mat/Su Borough and 56 structural fire departments as well as the general public who receive the benefit of increased fire protection.

Project Opposition: No known opposition.