

Rural Law Enforcement Training and Equipment

FY2009 Request: \$1,000,000
Reference No: 38479

AP/AL: Appropriation
Category: Public Protection
Location: Statewide

Project Type: Health and Safety
Contact: Dan Spencer, Director, Administrative Services
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House District: Statewide (HD 1-40)
Estimated Project Dates: 07/01/2008 - 09/30/2010

Brief Summary and Statement of Need:

The U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services, is expected to award the Department of Public Safety \$1,000,000 to train law enforcement personnel in rural locations to increase their ability to deal with crises and to purchase equipment for better responses to emergencies. These funds help the department achieve its mission to ensure public safety by preserving public peace and protecting life and property in rural villages.

Funding:	FY2009	FY2010	FY2011	FY2012	FY2013	FY2014	Total
Fed Rcpts	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$6,000,000
Total:	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$6,000,000

<input type="checkbox"/> State Match Required	<input type="checkbox"/> One-Time Project	<input type="checkbox"/> Phased - new	<input type="checkbox"/> Phased - underway	<input checked="" 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:	160,000	1
Ongoing Operating:	0	0
<u>One-Time Startup:</u>	<u>0</u>	
Totals:	160,000	1

Additional Information / Prior Funding History:

- Chapter 2, FSSLA 1999, page 52, line 5 - \$650,000
- Chapter 61, SLA 2001, page 23, line 30 - \$1,800,000
- Chapter 1, SSSLA 2002, page 45, line 22 - \$600,000
- Chapter 82, SLA 2003, page 33, line 25 - \$1,500,000
- Chapter 159, SLA 2004, Page 32, line 19 - \$2,000,000
- Chapter 3, FSSLA 2005 Page 64, Line 8-10 - \$2,000,000
- Chapter 82, SLA 2006, Page 81, Line 28-30 \$1,200,000
- Chapter 30, SLA 2007, Page 101, Line 28-30 \$2,000,000

Project Description/Justification:

The U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services, is expected to award the Department of Public Safety \$1,000,000 to train law enforcement personnel in rural areas of the state to increase their ability to deal with crises and to purchase equipment for better responses to emergencies. This project will continue the training and equipment program, funded by federal grants, that has been in place since FY2000. These grants provide basic and advanced training and equipment to many rural law enforcement officers in Western Alaska.

Law enforcement throughout most of the rural areas of Alaska is the responsibility of the Alaska State Troopers. From hub communities, state troopers respond immediately to life threatening emergencies, as quickly as possible to felonies,

and as soon as practical to misdemeanors. However, delayed notifications, long response distances (often to communities not accessible by road), uncertainties of weather and transportation, and limited manpower often hamper their efforts. Due to the limited number of available state troopers, village public safety officers (VPSO), or other law enforcement personnel, many villages in rural Alaska hire village police officers (VPOs) or tribal police officers (TPOs) to provide needed emergency response services at the local level. These VPOs and TPOs often receive only minimal salaries, training, and equipment due to the lack of a local tax base to support them.

Alaska's rural law enforcement personnel continue to be in need of training and equipment because of turnover and the multiple uses and projected short life span of public safety equipment. The harsh environment in which rural communities typically exist takes a toll on equipment, leading to a less than projected life span for these items.

This \$1,000,000 grant will be spread over two years and will provide all of the associated costs of continuing in-service training of numerous rural law enforcement officers. The project will involve various modules of training, including basic law enforcement response, search and rescue, domestic violence, basic and advanced fire fighting, use of non-lethal weapons, statement analysis, suspect interviewing techniques, methods of instruction, first aid and CPR, and re-certifications to enhance rural law enforcement services.

The training will be spread over two years due to limited availability of instructors and teaching facilities, the logistics of obtaining equipment and supplies, and to reduce the negative impact on small rural communities when their local law enforcement officers are away attending training. The training will be held in rural hubs, transporting personnel from the outlying villages to a central point for classroom training.

Emphasis will be placed on pulling from the pool of previously trained officers to further educate them to become certified instructors in basic police topics, defense tactics, first aid, and less lethal options. Developing a cadre of rural instructors will benefit rural areas by allowing training to be provided to new officers in a timely manner.

Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.) training will also be offered to rural officers to enable them to become certified D.A.R.E. training officers. This will increase the number of D.A.R.E. officers in the field who will have the ability to teach drug and violence prevention to school-age children in rural Alaska. The primary goals of D.A.R.E. are to prevent substance abuse among school-age children and to interrupt the cycle of drug abuse and violence in rural communities by teaching children the skills they need to recognize and resist the pressures that cause them to experiment with drugs or alcohol, or become involved in gangs or violent activities.

In addition to the training, grant funds will be used to purchase new and replacement equipment needed in rural areas to enhance response to emergencies. This includes emergency locator beacons, radios, computers, four-wheelers, boats and motors, snow-machines, and other law enforcement equipment.

This grant includes two years funding for the Alaska State Troopers' rural law enforcement training coordinator position, Sergeant PCN 12-1039.

This project contributes toward the department's mission of ensuring public safety by preserving public peace and protecting life and property by means of an effectively trained and well-equipped law enforcement presence across rural Alaska.