

Agency: Commerce, Community and Economic Development**Grants to Named Recipients (AS 37.05.316)****Grant Recipient: Steese Area Volunteer Fire Department****Federal Tax ID: 92-0118544****Project Title:****Project Type: Equipment and Materials****Steese Area Volunteer Fire Department - Fire Equipment****State Funding Requested: \$369,500****House District: 7 / D**

One-Time Need

Brief Project Description:

Replacement a 24 year old pumper/tanker with a new one due to high maintenance costs, parts unavailability, and out of service time.

Funding Plan:

Total Project Cost:	\$469,500
Funding Already Secured:	(\$100,000)
FY2012 State Funding Request:	<u>(\$369,500)</u>
Project Deficit:	\$0

Funding Details:

The matching \$100,000 was approved by the Steese Volunteer Fire Service Area Commission in FY-11, at the October 13, 2010 public meeting. It is currently secured in the FSA fund balance.

Detailed Project Description and Justification:

The Steese Area Volunteer Fire Department is requesting State Grant assistance, with official approval of the Steese Volunteer Fire Service Area Commission and the Steese AVFD Board of Directors. The project will replace an old fire apparatus pumper/tanker that incurs high maintenance costs and is out of service frequently, with a new apparatus with improved safety components. The apparatus has a motor with parts that are no longer made. The apparatus chassis lacks proper safety equipment such as anti lock braking, driver and passenger air bags, and roll over warning devices. The apparatus is top heavy with a high center of gravity and does not meet current NFPA center of gravity limits. Our fire service area terrain is 90% hills and mostly residential subdivisions with roads that surpass 13% grades. High maintenance costs and poor safety features make this apparatus a high replacement priority. The Steese VFSA recently annexed new properties in which this apparatus responds making it vital for proper fire protection services. This organization has been responsible in how it has used past state grant awards, wisely using the funding to improve the fire service area insurance ISO rating from an 8B to a 5. This has resulted in annual insurance premium savings for the average home owner that is close to or more than the cost of annual fire protection. Past State of Alaska grants received by this organization have proven to be financially profitable for local tax payers beyond the year of award making them a great investment.

Project Timeline:

Project will be placed out to bid by August 2011 thru the Fairbanks North Star Borough procurement process. After bid award, project completion time frame is projected to be 8-12 months.

Entity Responsible for the Ongoing Operation and Maintenance of this Project:

Steese Volunteer Fire Department through it's annually funded maintenance budget

Grant Recipient Contact Information:

Name:	Mitch Flynn
Title:	Fire Chief
Address:	585 Steele Creek Road Fairbanks, Alaska 99712
Phone Number:	(907)457-1519
Email:	mitch.flynn@steesefire.org

Has this project been through a public review process at the local level and is it a community priority? Yes No

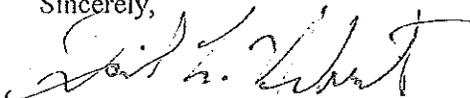
**Steese Fire Service Area Commission
Fairbanks North Star Borough
585 Steele Creek Road
Fairbanks, Alaska 99712
(907) 457-1508**

To: The Alaska State Legislature
Date: October 20, 2010
Subject: Grant Request for one 3000 gallon Fire Apparatus- Pumper/Tanker
Total Project Amount: \$469,500
Steese Fire Service Area Share: \$100,000
State Grant Request Amount: \$369,500

The Steese Fire Service Area (FSA) Commission requests State Grant assistance in purchasing a new Pumper/Tanker for the purpose of replacing a 24 year old pumper/tanker. The vehicle continues to experience extensive problems with maintenance and availability of engine parts. This vehicle has been out of service approximately 25% of the time in the last 36 months due to various maintenance issues. The electrical system recently malfunctioned and shorted out most of the electrical lighting and some wiring. The main pump transfer case is showing major wear. The throttle is air driven which the operator must learn to control safely. It is not adjustable and is either off or operates at full throttle. The apparatus was designed during in the mid 1980's and resulted in a poorly constructed top heavy vehicle. Newer apparatus have safety features such as ABS braking, passenger side air bags, and a lower center of gravity. These newer innovations improve firefighter safety and allow more timely emergency responses.

The Steese FSA Commission voted to approve the support of this request during its regularly scheduled commission meeting on October 13, 2010. It is the Commission's position that the FSA provide a substantial match towards the project. A partial funding State grant will help us keep our FSA tax base low while serving the needs of our residents with more efficient and safer apparatus. The Fox community is growing and recently the FSA area was expanded beyond Fox by annexation. The annexed area will bring in tax revenues of approximately \$35,000 which will cover our operating expenses to provide the additional service. However, it does not allow the FSA to save enough to replace fire apparatus. Thank you for considering this grant request.

Sincerely,



David Nebert, Chair
Steese Fire Service Area Commission

**Steese Fire Service Area Commission
Fairbanks North Star Borough
585 Steele Creek Road
Fairbanks, Alaska 99712
(907) 457-1508**

To: Scott Johnson, Director of FNSB Public Works
Through: Brad Paulson, Emergency Services Administrator FNSB
Date: October 20, 2010
Subject: Grant Requests from the Steese FSA Commission

Dear Scott:

The two projects attached were unanimously supported by the Steese FSA Commission at their regular scheduled meeting on October 13, 2010. They include a State grant request for a new tanker/pumper and a dorm room addition for Steese station one.

The Commission understands that these items are not yet on the CIP list, but we recommend that Mayor Hopkins support our requests, with the understanding that we may get funding for at least one of the two projects from the legislature. We wanted to get the requests assembled soon so they can be given to legislators in the coming weeks.

Sincerely,



David L. Nebert, Chair
Steese Fire Service Area Commission

-----Original Message-----

From: Dave Nebert [<mailto:nebert@gci.net>]

Sent: Friday, January 28, 2011 9:33 AM

To: Mitch Flynn

Subject: Support for Pumper/tanker replacement

Chief Mitch Flynn,

Please append this note to your request for a pumper/tanker replacement. I strongly support the requested replacement. Since the area served is hilly, a newer vehicle with a more powerful engine will be able to respond more quickly and thus serve the service area residents more effectively. In a fire emergency, I understand that minutes count. A more rapid response saves property and lives.

In addition to serving the Steese Fire Service Area, Steese trucks routinely respond to other emergencies in the Fairbanks area for mutual response. Thus, this request will also provide enhanced coverage to other nearby service areas as well as to the City of Fairbanks.

Please support this request for emergency service enhancement.

Dave Nebert, Chair

Steese Fire Service Area Commission

From: Tracy Brand [<mailto:tbrand@co.fairbanks.ak.us>]
Sent: Thursday, January 27, 2011 11:41 AM
To: Mitch Flynn
Subject: RE: State Grant Application for T-63 Replacement

Please support the grant funding request to purchase a new fire pumper/tanker for the Steese Area Volunteer Fire Department. The aging tanker at Steese is spending more and more time down for repairs and must be replaced soon. Please provide funding for this important apparatus purchase.

Thank you.

Tracy Brand
Board of Director – Secretary
Steese Area Volunteer Fire Department
(907) 459-1392 work
(907) 457-7147 home

Brenda Couey
PO Box 84317
Fairbanks, Alaska 99708

January 28, 2011

State of Alaska
Commerce, community and Economic Development
Juneau, Alaska

Subject: Letter of Support for Steese Area Volunteer Fire Department

Re: Replacement of Old and Dangerous Equipment

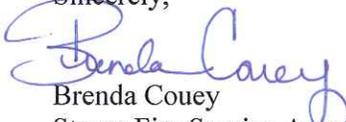
To Whom It May Concern:

I am a resident of the Steese Fire Service Area and support my local Fire Department. The Steese Area Volunteer Fire Department is an outstanding organization with highly skilled individuals who perform their duties with integrity and professionalism. I am concerned that they are able to respond to incidents safely, allowing them to continue to serve our community without harm.

I understand the Steese Area Volunteer Fire Department has an old Tanker apparatus they are using for responses. This tanker is dangerous to our responders lacking driver and passenger air bags and is top heavy, risking roll-over possibilities on our treacherous roadways. Due to the hills and winding road conditions in our area, dangerous driving conditions exist throughout the year.

I support the grant request to replace this legacy apparatus. Thank you for your time and consideration to keep our emergency responding personnel safe.

Sincerely,



Brenda Couey
Steese Fire Service Area Resident
748 Grubstake Road
Fairbanks, Alaska 99712
(907) 458-7924

From: Zane Wilson [<mailto:zane@alaskalaw.com>]
Sent: Friday, January 28, 2011 11:25 AM
To: Mitch Flynn
Subject: RE:

Dear Chief Flynn:

I fully support the funding request to replace the 24 year old pumper/tanker currently being used by the Steese Fire Department. The department's ability to effectively and efficiently respond to fire calls is compromised when they have to rely on old and unreliable equipment. The safety of the residents of Alaska should be a funding priority.

Zane Wilson