

AP/AL: Appropriation **Project Type:** Equipment
Category: Health/Human Services
Location: Statewide **Contact:** Larry Streuber
House District: Statewide (HD 1-40) **Contact Phone:** (907)465-1870
Estimated Project Dates: 07/01/2000 - 06/30/2006

Brief Summary and Statement of Need:

EMS ambulance and first responder personnel need adequate, reliable emergency communications systems to provide effective, life-saving services. In some areas there is no EMS communications coverage whatsoever. In other areas, two-way radio systems are old and breaking down with increasing frequency. This project will target needs for enhanced EMS communications for volunteer ambulance and first responder services in areas with the greatest documented needs, based on a comprehensive statewide EMS communications plan (completed in September 1997.)

Funding:	FY2001	FY2002	FY2003	FY2004	FY2005	FY2006	Total
Gen Fund	\$241,600	\$341,600	\$341,600	\$341,600			\$1,266,400
Total:	\$241,600	\$341,600	\$341,600	\$341,600	\$0	\$0	\$1,266,400

<input type="checkbox"/> State Match Required	<input type="checkbox"/> One-Time Project	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Phased Project	<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:

CH50/SLA97/P4/L14 \$200,000 GF
 CH139/SLA98/P51/L11 \$311,600 GF

Project Description/Justification:

During its meeting in early 1997, the Technical Advisory Committee of the Telecommunications Information Council approved \$341.6 for each of five years for this project. So far, the Department of Health and Social Services has received approximately \$500.0.

Improved systems will help improve response times, increase treatment advice to EMS responders from hospitals and physicians, and help EMS responders alert hospitals of the number, condition and estimated arrival time of patients. Ultimately, improved EMS communications systems can help save lives and reduce long-term disabilities among Alaskans and visitors by improving emergency medical response capabilities.

Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Communications systems include:

- 1) Citizen Access - including 911 systems and highway emergency call boxes to quickly report medical emergencies.
- 2) Emergency Medical Dispatch - trained dispatchers who can quickly assess the emergency situation, dispatch appropriate response resources, and give pre-arrival treatment advice to callers.
- 3) Coordination with other Public Safety Agencies - EMS responders may need assistance from police, fire, or other EMS agencies, depending on the nature of the emergency.

4) Medical Direction - EMS responders often need advice from physicians and hospital emergency departments on triage and treatment decisions, and need to provide timely reports on the numbers, condition, and estimated arrival time of patients so emergency department staff are ready when the patients arrive. The primary focus of this request is on components 3 and 4.

All equipment purchases will be in accordance with planning guidance from the Division of Information Services, Department of Administration, as well as with guidance from the Emergency Communications subcommittee of the State Telecommunications Information Council (TIC). Equipment purchased will include terrestrial two-way radios and repeater/relay systems, cellular phones, or mobile satellite phones, depending on the most cost-effective solution for each priority area. New equipment will meet applicable FCC requirements, including new mandates for "refarming" (migration to narrow band frequencies), but will also require interoperability with existing systems that may have several more years of useful life.

New licenses from the FCC for radio frequencies in the VHF and UHF bands require narrow band channel capabilities (12.5 kHz). Existing wide band equipment (25 kHz) is allowed for the foreseeable future for existing licenses, but this equipment is not compatible with narrow band equipment. Therefore, new equipment should be dual mode (12.5 kHz & 25 kHz) until such time as all radio systems migrate to narrow band equipment.

Areas with significant or increasing volumes of traffic where problems and needs have been identified include parts or all of the: Glenn Highway/Tok Cutoff; Richardson Highway; Parks Highway; Steese Highway; Taylor Highway; Elliot Highway; Dalton Highway; Denali Highway; and on the Prince of Wales Island. Many of these roads have increasing traffic and vehicle crashes, especially during the summer. Since not all of these problem areas can be addressed with the amount of funding requested during FY 2001, priorities will be established based on cost of purchasing new or replacing old equipment, volume of traffic and number of crashes, and volume of EMS activity in each area.

If funded, this project will be coordinated with the following FY01 capital budget requests:

DOA – Land Mobile Radio, \$1.2 million, with \$850.0 General Fund and \$350.0 Federal receipts

DMVA – Integrated Emergency Telecom Infrastructure, \$75.0 General Fund
– Emergency Rescue Coordination Infrastructure, \$133.7 General Fund.
– Emergency Wireless Communications, \$71.2 General Fund.

DPS – Southeast Communications Upgrade, \$400.4, of this amount \$350.4 General Fund and \$50.0 Oil and Hazardous Response Fund.