Emergency Communications: Land Mobile Radio Migration **FY2002 Request: $16,248,100**
Reference No: 33845

AP/AL: Appropriation
Project Type: Equipment
Category: Public Support Technology/Service
Location: Statewide
Contact: Dan Spencer
Election District: Statewide
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Estimated Project Dates: 07/01/2001 - 06/30/2006

Brief Summary and Statement of Need:
Funding will be used to continue the process of converting Federal, State, and local emergency communications systems to technology that will provide for interoperability (the ability of different agencies with different communications systems to communicate across jurisdictions and with each other).

Funding:

	FY2002	FY2003	FY2004	FY2005	FY2006	FY2007	Total
Fed Rcpts	$14,893,700						$14,893,700
Gen Fund	$1,354,400						$1,354,400
Total:	$16,248,100	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$16,248,100

☐ State Match Required ☐ One-Time Project ☒ Phased Project ☐ On-Going Project
0% = Minimum State Match % Required ☐ Amendment ☐ Mental Health Bill

Operating & Maintenance Costs:

	Amount	Staff
Total Operating Impact:	0	0
One-Time Startup Costs:	0	
Additional Estimated Annual O&M:	0	0

Prior Funding History / Additional Information:
This project received funding of $485.0 GF in FY1998 and $850.0 of Information Services Funds (ISF) and $350.0 of Federal Receipts in FY2001.

Project Overview
The purpose of this project is to replace the existing emergency communications infrastructure with one that will be used jointly by state, local and federal agencies for routine public safety work and responding to emergencies and disaster incidents.

This funding will pay for necessary equipment, software, project management, and other professional services needed to fully implement this portion of the project. The equipment and software will provide connectivity along the highway system and pipeline corridor areas of Alaska. These infrastructure improvements follow a detailed design that has been developed this year following extensive interviews with federal, state, and local government participants and on-site review of available resources. Existing infrastructure will be used to the maximum extent possible.

Additional system components will be provided through a contract that will be administered by the federal General Services Administration.

Project Background
Routine public safety work requires effective coordination and communication with other police agencies, fire departments, emergency medical services, and public service organizations. High profile incidents – such as natural disasters (forest fires, floods, avalanches, etc.), oil spills, and rescue operations test the ability of public safety and other public service organizations to mount a well-coordinated response. Interoperability, the ability of different agencies to communicate across jurisdictions with each other, often depends on wireless radio communication systems.

This project will continue the process of converting and upgrading state systems to allow interoperability of two-way radio resources at the federal, state and local levels so that response to life threatening situations can be quick and effective.

This project will assist agencies in migrating their current analog radios to digital, which will carry an associated cost. Once completed, federal and local governments will share in one statewide system and participate in funding operational costs of the system. Even though operational costs of the total system will be a new cost to each entity, joint participation by federal and local government entities is expected to lower the operational costs which have previously been borne by each entity independently.

This project represents the state's continuing participation in the joint Land Mobile Radio (LMR) Executive Committee which is developing a statewide radio frequency migration plan to allow for future interoperability between all emergency response agencies which will meet Federal Communications Commission (FCC) requirements and conserve bandwidth. A goal of the Committee is to "develop a migration strategy that incorporates a significant cost reduction for each agency working as a team." With that goal in mind, federal, state, and local government agencies have agreed to partner in the Alaska Land Mobile Radio Executive Council and work together to deploy an interoperable emergency communication system.

In addition, this project will ensure compliance with decisions by the FCC regarding radio/wireless spectrum use. This will require migration from the current license frequencies to new narrowband spectrums. This migration becomes increasingly important because radio spectrum is a limited resource and is used in greater proportions by cellular, paging, and internet companies. The federal agencies are required to convert their systems by 2002. State and local government agencies have not yet been given deadlines by the FCC, but are working with their federal counterparts in order to take advantage of cost efficiencies made possible by a coordinated deployment plan.

A statewide study of infrastructure issues is currently underway by a private vendor (Motorola) with recommendations and cost estimates expected in early spring.

Future Year Cost Implications
Initial estimates are that $23.6 million in subscriber units (mobile radios, portable radios, base stations and consoles) and an additional $4.752 million will be required for installation of these units once the shared infrastructure is in place. Funding options for that phase are still being discussed by the various federal, state and local participants.