

Emergency Communications: Southeast Upgrade

FY2002 Request: \$400,400
Reference No: 32371

AP/AL: Appropriation
Category: Public Protection
Location: Juneau Areawide
Election District: Juneau Areawide
Estimated Project Dates: 07/01/2001 - 06/30/2003

Project Type: Equipment
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Brief Summary and Statement of Need:

Place eight communications repeaters in Southeast Alaska to improve emergency communications.

Funding:

	FY2002	FY2003	FY2004	FY2005	FY2006	FY2007	Total
Gen Fund	\$350,400						\$350,400
Oil/Haz Fd	\$50,000						\$50,000
Total:	\$400,400	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$400,400

<input type="checkbox"/> State Match Required	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> One-Time Project	<input type="checkbox"/> Phased Project	<input type="checkbox"/> On-Going Project
0% = Minimum State Match % Required		<input type="checkbox"/> Amendment	<input type="checkbox"/> Mental Health Bill

Operating & Maintenance Costs:

	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Staff</u>
Total Operating Impact:	0	0
One-Time Startup Costs:	0	
Additional Estimated Annual O&M:	92,198	0

Prior Funding History / Additional Information:

NOTE: For Combined State Communications Package. This project involves partnering with the U.S. Coast Guard to use their existing sites.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This project will place VHF two-way radio repeaters with antenna systems in eight locations in Southeast Alaska to greatly improve the emergency communication available in this area of the state.

PROJECT NEED STATEMENT

The State presently has very little in the way of communication site infrastructure in Southeast Alaska. Development of sites all over this area is cost prohibitive. Over the past several years the State has been seeking solutions for development of a public safety two-way radio system that could be operated from dispatch centers in Juneau and Ketchikan utilizing sites somewhere in the Southeast Alaska corridor. After considerable research it was determined that partnering with the U.S. Coast Guard to use their existing sites was possible since they will be upgrading all of their equipment in this area in the near future and will allow the State to use their sites at no cost.

This project envisions placing the repeaters at the following locations:

1. Althorp Peak - near Cape Spencer
2. Cape Fanshaw - which transmits to Althorp Peak
3. Duke Island - which transmits to Gravina Island / High Mt.
4. Gravina Island / High Mountain - near Ketchikan
5. Mt. McArthur - near Port Alexander
6. Mt. Robert Barron - near Juneau
7. Sukkwan Island - near Hydaburg
8. Zarembo Island - near Wrangell and Petersburg

The resulting repeater system would be a shared communications system that will be used by:

- . The Alaska State Troopers (DPS/AST) for general law enforcement communications traffic. AST is responsible for police protection within the areas that would be served by the new system. AST operates 24-hour dispatch centers throughout the state.
- . Emergency Medical Services (DH&SS/EMS) personnel in the nearby communities around these sites. With this repeater system, EMS personnel would have the ability to communicate back to a 24-hour dispatch center for emergencies. The new system would enhance EMS response to accidents.
- . Responders to oil spills. The DEC/ Spill Prevention & Response would like to have a two-way radio system that will give them the ability to communicate from their Juneau headquarters location to these areas in the event of a spill incident. This repeater system will also enhance their response to oil spill incidents. In terms of spill response, the Inland Passage in Southeast Alaska has remained an area of concern in terms of such communications for some time.
- . The Alaska Marine Highway has recently also expressed an interest in this project. Coordination will take place during FY2000.

DOCUMENTATION OF ESTIMATED CAPITAL COST

The Department of Administration, Information Technology Group, Section of Telecommunications has estimated the following costs based upon familiarity with costs of similar equipment available from several manufacturers:

Equipment:		
8 X VHF repeaters	\$110,000	
Antenna systems	\$ 20,000	
Frame relay devices needed for Juneau and Ketchikan circuits	\$ 45,000	
Multiplex channel and other equipment for use at the USCG sites	<u>\$ 50,000</u>	
Subtotal		\$ 225,000
Circuit installation costs:		\$ 11,152
Circuit costs (first year):		\$ 65,798
Other Installation costs:		
Installation costs of repeaters at 8 sites	\$ 42,000	

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Installation of frame relay devices Juneau & Ketchikan	\$ 5,000	
Contracted installation modifications at USCG sites to allow repeaters on site	<u>\$ 25,000</u>	
Subtotal		\$ 72,000
Maintenance costs (first year):		<u>\$ 26,450</u>
Total		\$400,400

ANALYSIS OF ESTIMATED OPERATIONAL COSTS

Operating costs will consist of two elements:		
Maintenance contract (private sector)	\$ 26,400	
Circuit costs	<u>\$ 65,798</u>	
Total yearly operating costs		\$ 92,198

IDENTIFICATION OF ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

- . Continue to rely on the current communications capability - This is unacceptable due to the physical danger to the public in delayed responses to SAR and EMS calls for assistance and delays in spill response, each of which can be avoided.
- . Contract with a private communications company - This is unacceptable due to the potential high cost of providing the service that could not be supported by the agencies involved.