

Rural Law Enforcement Support

FY2002 Request: \$1,800,000
Reference No: AMD34776

AP/AL: Appropriation
Category: Public Protection
Location: Statewide
Election District: Statewide
Estimated Project Dates: 07/01/2001 - 06/30/2006

Project Type: Health and Safety
Contact: Kenneth E. Bischoff
Contact Phone: (907)465-4336

Brief Summary and Statement of Need:

The Department of Justice, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services will be awarding the Alaska Department of Public Safety \$1,800,000 to train Village Police Officers, Village Public Safety Officers and Tribal Police Officers to increase their ability to deal with crisis situations and to purchase equipment for better responses to emergencies.

Funding:

	FY2002	FY2003	FY2004	FY2005	FY2006	FY2007	Total
Fed Rcpts	\$1,800,000						\$1,800,000
Total:	\$1,800,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,800,000

<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 checked="" 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:	0	0

Prior Funding History / Additional Information:

\$650,000 (Federal) Ch. 2, FSSLA 1999, page 52, line 5.

Project Description:

The Department of Justice, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services will be awarding the Alaska Department of Public Safety \$1,800,000 to train Village Police Officers, Village Public Safety Officers and Tribal Police to increase their ability to deal with crisis situations and to purchase equipment for better responses to emergencies. The project will benefit rural residents of Alaska and those visiting various remote areas of the state.

Law enforcement throughout much of the rural areas in Alaska is the responsibility of the Alaska State Troopers. From hub communities, State Troopers respond to life threatening emergencies immediately, to felonies as quickly as possible, and to misdemeanors as soon as practical. The process is hampered by delayed notification, long distances, uncertainties of weather and transportation, and limited manpower. The Village Public Safety Officer (VPSO) Program began in the early 1980's as a means of providing rural Alaskan communities with needed public safety services at the local level as an approach of dealing with the manpower shortage. Due to the limited number of available State Troopers and VPSOs, many villages in rural Alaska hire Village Police Officers (VPOs) or Tribal Police Officers (TPOs) to provide needed emergency response services. These VPOs and TPOs often receive only minimal salaries, training and equipment due to the lack of a local tax base to support them.

\$1,800,000 spread over two years will provide all of the associated costs of this enhancement of rural law enforcement services. It is anticipated that these funds would be provided through the U.S. Department of Justice, *Office of Community Oriented Policing Services*. The program would involve partnering agreements between the state, the Regional Native Non-profit Corporations and villages throughout the state. This project is based upon the successful \$650,000 training and equipment program that was implemented during FY2000 (1999CKWX0011). This program provided basic training and equipment to many VPSOs and VPOs in Western Alaska.

Training \$999,790

Twelve training classes will be conducted during a two-year period. 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, in order to reduce the negative impact on small rural communities when their local law enforcement officers are away attending training.

Basic VPO/TPO training will consist of 92 hours of basic law enforcement topics, rural fire fighting, search and rescue, basic first aid and CPR. Two classes will be conducted each year, one class in the spring and one in the fall.

Advance training will be available to VPSOs, VPOs and TPOs, who have attended and successfully passed basic VPSO or VPO training. Advanced training will consist of 80 hours of instruction on advance investigative techniques to include photography, forensics, pathology, fingerprinting and latent fingerprint development, non-lethal weapons and basic sexual assault investigation. One class will be available to 60 students in each of two years. Classes will be held in the early spring or late fall of each year.

VPSO Basic Training, consisting of 320 hours of training, will be provided once a year for two years in addition to the annual VPSO Academy held each year beginning in January and ending in February. Each class will be conducted at the DPS Academy in Sitka, training dates will be determined by facility availability.

Year 1	2 Week	Basic Training	30 Students	\$70,500	
	2 Week	Basic Training	30 Students	\$70,500	
	2 Week	Advance Trng	60 Students	\$144,000	
	8 Week	VPSO Academy	20 Students	\$144,420*	
	8 Days	Rural Fire Fighting Non Lethal	38 Students	\$58,748**	
	2 Days	Weapon Trng	Group	\$15,000	\$503,168
Year 2	2 Week	Basic Training	30 Students	\$70,500	
	2 Week	Basic Training	30 Students	\$70,500	
	2 Week	Advance Trng	60 Students	\$144,000	
	8 Week	VPSO Academy	20 Students	\$144,420*	

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8 Days	Rural Fire Fighting	37 Students	\$57,202**	
2 Days	Non Lethal Weapon Trng	Group	\$10,000	\$496,622
TOTALS				\$999,790

* In addition to the regularly scheduled academy.

**Rural fire fighting training will consist of 52 hours, and will be available to VPO's and TPO's.

The one-time project will involve various modules of training to include basic, advanced, fire fighting, and non lethal weapon, for the benefit of Village Police Officers, Village Public Safety Officers and Tribal Police Officers. The funding that is provided will allow the Department to have 12 training classes. The training will include basic law enforcement response, search and rescues, avalanches and domestic violence. This project would require two years to implement and would involve two training cycles. The basic module covers the fundamentals of law enforcement and would have a follow up advanced law enforcement module to build upon the foundation of training from the first session. The training would be held in rural hubs, transporting personnel from the outlying villages into a central point for classroom training.

Equipment \$800,210

In addition to the training, new and replacement equipment is needed for the Village Public Safety Officers, Village Police Officers and Tribal Police Officers to enhance rural response to emergency situations. This includes four-wheelers, boats and motors, emergency locator beacons, radios, computers and law enforcement equipment.

Item	Units	Cost	Total Cost	Location
4-Wheelers	9	\$6,000	\$54,000	Bethel/Fbx
Marine Radios	20	\$300	\$6,000	Bethel Area
20' River Boat	1	\$25,000	\$25,000	Dillingham
Pepperball guns	100	\$394	\$39,400	Statewide
Pepperball rounds	15,000 rounds	\$7,500		
	15,000 rounds	\$17,500	\$25,000	Statewide
Tazers	100	\$400	\$40,000	Statewide
Tazer rounds	600	\$18	\$10,800	Statewide
Snow Machine				
Helmets	120	\$100	\$12,000	Statewide
Float coats	120	\$200	\$24,000	Statewide
Portable radios	120	\$500	\$60,000	Statewide
Digital cameras	120	\$500	\$60,000	Statewide
Portable Breathe Testers	75	\$266	\$19,987	Statewide
Global Positioning System	120	\$300	\$36,000	Statewide
Portable Locator Beacons	200	\$300	\$60,000	Statewide
Evidence Kits	120	\$160	\$19,200	Statewide
Body/leg restraints	120	Leg \$23	\$2,760	
	120	Body \$30	\$3,600	Statewide
Power Point Projector	1	\$5,000	\$5,000	Anch VPSO Training
Fire turnout gear	85	\$1,200	\$102,000	Statewide
Computers	22	\$2,459	\$54,102	Statewide
Gear bags	85	\$40	\$3,400	Statewide
Rubbermaid lockers	120	\$20	\$2,400	Statewide
Floodlights	120	\$30	\$3,600	Statewide
Plastic covered mattress	200	\$52	\$10,400	
pillows & mattress	200	\$4.65	\$930	
	Includes freight			Statewide

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Portable Holding cells	20	\$2,594		
		Includes freight	\$51,880	Statewide
Fire Pump/Pack	50	\$1,375	\$68,750	Statewide
Total Cost			\$800,210	

The above equipment list equals 44.46% of this grant. The majority of the equipment will be purchased during the first year of the grant to support rural law enforcement efforts as quickly as possible. Any remaining equipment and supplies will be used in conjunction with specific training that occurs during the two-year period.

Timing Issues/Budgetary Issues

The Department of Public Safety was notified of the federal appropriation on 12/18/00 after the Governor's FY2002 capital budget was released. The Alaska State Troopers are currently preparing the grant application for the Department of Justice, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services approval. We anticipate the grant award will be completed/approved in the summer 2001. There will be no future general fund budgetary impacts as this federal appropriation (H.R. 5548) is for equipment purchases and training of existing law enforcement officers. No new positions will be funded with this request.

Impact of Not Receiving This Request

If this project is not approved, the state will lose \$1,800,000 in federal funding. Currently there are over two hundred remote communities in Alaska. Only 85 receive funding for a trained VPSO. The remaining communities must rely on VPOs/TPOs or await the arrival of a State Trooper from a regional hub community. The training and equipment provided by this grant will improve law enforcement in rural Alaska.