

Emergency Medical Services Equipment Grants - Match for Code Blue Project **FY2002 Request: \$533,400**
Reference No: 33797

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: 07/01/2001 - 06/30/2006

Brief Summary and Statement of Need:

EMS ambulance and first responder personnel need adequate, reliable emergency medical equipment and ambulances to provide effective life-saving services. Many ambulances and EMS equipment were purchased with federal grants in the late 1970's and early 1980's. These vehicles and equipment must be replaced. Under a grant program administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), up to 75% of the cost of ambulances and medical equipment can be provided to communities who meet certain financial eligibility criteria. This request would furnish the remaining amounts needed as "matching funds."

Funding:	<u>FY2002</u>	<u>FY2003</u>	<u>FY2004</u>	<u>FY2005</u>	<u>FY2006</u>	<u>FY2007</u>	<u>Total</u>
G/F Match	\$533,400	\$533,400	\$533,400	\$533,400	\$533,400	\$533,400	\$3,200,400
Total:	\$533,400	\$533,400	\$533,400	\$533,400	\$533,400	\$533,400	\$3,200,400

<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:

The funds displayed for FY03 through FY07 are the Department's proposal to help keep up with ongoing needs for EMS equipment.

Project Description/Justification:

EMS ambulance and first responder personnel need adequate, reliable emergency medical equipment and ambulances to provide effective, life-saving services. The Department of Health and Social Services, in cooperation with regional EMS programs throughout the state, has documented a critical need for new EMS equipment and ambulances, particularly in rural communities. This project is called "Code Blue". A much more detailed description of the "Code Blue" program is available upon request.

Many old ambulances and EMS equipment were purchased with federal grants in the late 1970's and early 1980's. These vehicles and equipment must be replaced in order to ensure the continued viability of a statewide, comprehensive, life-saving EMS system. Most of the communities with old failing equipment are staffed with volunteer EMTs who do not have access to the funding necessary to purchase new ambulances and equipment.

A need for nearly seven million dollars in new ambulances, emergency medical equipment, and communications equipment has been documented. Under a grant program administered by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), up to 75% of the cost of these critical items can be provided to communities which meet certain financial and other eligibility criteria. The remaining funds must be provided as "matching funds." Based on the average eligibility of communities in Alaska, the department estimates that \$533,400 could match approximately \$684,627 of USDA funds,

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which would go directly to local communities. If funds are available in FY 2003, they could also serve as a match for additional USDA funds.

In FY 2004 through FY 2007, if funds are available, the \$533,400 continuing appropriations would help keep up with ongoing needs for EMS equipment and ambulances for rural, volunteer EMS ambulance and first responder squads throughout the state.