

Weights and Measures Testing Unit Replacement

FY2002 Request: \$60,000
Reference No: 32605

AP/AL: Appropriation **Project Type:** Equipment
Category: Transportation
Location: Statewide **Contact:** Tom Brigham
House District: Statewide (HD 1-40) **Contact Phone:** (907)465-4070
Estimated Project Dates: 07/01/2001 - 06/30/2006

Brief Summary and Statement of Need:

The Weights and Measures vehicle fleet is aging and is at the point where a number of the vehicles are due for replacement. Currently, vehicles that are well beyond their projected economic useful life (some nearly 30 years old) are still in use.

Funding:	<u>FY2002</u>	<u>FY2003</u>	<u>FY2004</u>	<u>FY2005</u>	<u>FY2006</u>	<u>FY2007</u>	<u>Total</u>
Gen Fund	\$60,000						\$60,000
Total:	\$60,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$60,000

<input type="checkbox"/> State Match Required	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> One-Time Project	<input type="checkbox"/> Phased - new	<input type="checkbox"/> Phased - underway	<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	
Totals:	0	0

Additional Information / Prior Funding History:

None

Project Description/Justification:

Department of Transportation & Public Facilities
Measurement Standards & Commercial Vehicle Enforcement
Impact Statement
Date: September 29, 2000
Prepared by: Aves D. Thompson

<u>Program Area</u>	<u>Dollar Amount</u>	<u>Fund Source(s)</u>
Measurement Standards & CVE	\$260,000	GF

Executive Summary

These funds will be used to replace two scale trucks that are both over 20 years old, one being 30 years old.

These vehicles are used to test scales and measuring devices used for commerce.

Without these vehicles, the State cannot certify scales, and scale owners must either operate illegally or cease operations until the State can certify the scales per legal requirements.

These vehicles are unreliable, unsafe and so old that parts are difficult to find. They are often unusable for lengthy periods of time, waiting for repairs to be made.

Detailed Description

This funding request is required to support the Weights & Measures Inspection Program. Specifically, if this funding requirement is denied, the division will not be able to purchase the below listed equipment:

One (1) Weights & Measures Petroleum Testing Unit which is a replacement for a 100 gallon liquid prover used to test fuel meters, home heating oil delivery trucks, aircraft refueling meters, and marine fuel meters for use in Northern Region. In addition, this vehicle will be equipped with a 100-gallon prover. The cost of the test unit includes fabricating a new bed and installing a new stainless steel volumetric prover, which is used as the field standard when testing which also requires valving and piping to offload the product when testing is complete.

The current vehicle is a 1970 Chevrolet 3/4 ton truck that is equipped with a 100 gallon volumetric prover that is used to test and certify petroleum meters in the Northern Region. This truck was in the process of being surplused by California Weights and Measures in the early 1980's. Due to limited resources, the division acquired this vehicle at an extremely reduced cost.

Current mileage is 800,000 and this volumetric prover unit is the only vehicle available in the Northern region. Extensive major repairs have been required in the last number of years. The vehicle's overall condition is poor and is a safety concern to the driver and the motoring public. If funding is not approved, commercial meters in the Northern region will be operating in a non-certified condition.

Estimated vehicle replacement: \$60,000

One (1) Weights & Measures Large Scale Testing Unit which is a replacement of a large scale testing unit that is used for testing truck, contractor, freight and fishing scales. This truck carries 10,000 pounds of known test weights and has a hydraulic boom to facilitate the movement of the weights onto and off of the scales. This unit is used throughout Southeast Alaska and travels extensively on the Alaska Marine Highway System.

The current vehicle is a 1980 International weight truck equipped to carry 10,000 pounds of certified standards. The current mileage is 50,000 and the weight truck has approximately 150,000 miles on the engine due to the fact that it must run while loading/unloading the test weights.

Originally the Division, through a grant from the Department of Commerce and Economic Development, purchased three of these scale-testing units. To date, this is the last remaining operational vehicle of the three identical units purchased. The other two vehicles failed to operate a number of years ago and were surplused.

Due to the unavailability of repair parts and safety concerns it was decided to discontinue expensive repairs. This vehicle's overall condition is poor and is a safety concern to the driver and the motoring public.

This vehicle serves as a multi-purpose scale-testing unit that services all of the communities in

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Southeast Alaska. If funding is not approved, commercial scales in Southeast will be operating in a non-certified condition. The Division's resources are limited; we simply do not have another vehicle to relocate to the Division's Southeast field office.

Estimated vehicle replacement: \$200,000.

Both vehicles are over 20 years old, one being 30 years old. They have exceeded their useful safety life. Since each unit services areas in either the Northern Region or the Southeast, should a vehicle become inoperable, it is impossible to respond to the public, as there are no replacement vehicles available. The testing units have become unreliable, expensive to maintain and repair due to the age of both vehicles, parts are sometimes difficult to obtain, and they have become a safety hazard to operate.

Should these vehicles break down and cannot be repaired in a timely fashion, devices owners will become non-compliant with AS 45.75 which could lead to misrepresentation and/or injustice to the purchasing public. Therefore, the Division would not be able to protect the buying public from overcharges by inspection and testing of commercial weighing measuring devices used in the marketplace.