Satellite Telephone System - Statewide **FY2007 Request: $1,283,000**
Reference No: AMD 41970

AP/AL: Appropriation **Project Type:** Health and Safety
Category: Public Protection
Location: Statewide **Contact:** John Cramer
House District: Statewide (HD 1-40) **Contact Phone:** (907)465-4602
Estimated Project Dates: 07/01/2006 - 06/30/2011

Brief Summary and Statement of Need:
Establish a reliable, basic, satellite based communications capability with small to mid-sized communities throughout the State of Alaska. This project will use readily available "commercial off the shelf" equipment to establish a very basic, but very reliable emergency communications capability with 378 remote communities within the State of Alaska. Life safety enhancement end results, ability to protect our citizens and infrastructure, will continue to improve by increasing reliable emergency communications.

Funding:	FY2007	FY2008	FY2009	FY2010	FY2011	FY2012	Total
Gen Fund	$1,283,000						$1,283,000
Total:	$1,283,000	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$1,283,000

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

Operating & Maintenance Costs:

	Amount	Staff
Project Development:	0	0
Ongoing Operating:	187,000	1
One-Time Startup:	0	
Totals:	187,000	1

Additional Information / Prior Funding History:
No prior funding history exists.

Project Description/Justification:
Shortly after Hurricane Katrina, FCC Chairman Kevin J. Martin, in testimony before Congress, called for developing more rugged first responder networks and making greater use of satellite technology because it does not depend on vulnerable ground infrastructure. The Alaska Land Mobile Radio (ALMR) is the State's current emergency communications system. Current ALMR coverage area is estimated at 2 to 5% of the State, primarily along the Alaska Highway system and leverages the State's terrestrial microwave system. "When radio towers are knocked down, satellite communications may be the most effective means of communicating," Martin said at a hearing of the Senate Commerce Committee. "If we learned anything from Hurricane Katrina, it is that we cannot rely solely on terrestrial communications." Satellite phones would provide immediate access to non-terrestrial emergency communications system for all of Alaska's communities. There are multiple providers of satellite service available to most communities. Satellite service is the one sure form of backup communication in Alaska and costs have dropped to the point that the State could execute a one time purchase of satellite telephones and annual contracts for sufficient air time for emergency communications for each community's key contacts. Leveraging a multi-state procurement agreement could further reduce costs for the phone and satellite service. A State listing of these emergency communications satellite telephones, including contact information by position would provide universal backup communications, which could augment the other systems under development.

The recently conducted Integrated Statewide Emergency Communications Management Plan (ISSECMP) pointed out a glaring shortfall in the State of Alaska Executive Branch agencies capability to reliably communicate with the majority of the State's small to mid-size communities. Some of the these communities have unreliable existing communications – for example one community stated that their current telephone system worked fine, as long as it didn't rain. When Hurricane

Katrina hit the gulf coast states, it immediately pointed out the additional vulnerabilities of terrestrial based emergency communications.

One of the project deliverables will be to establish a statewide database solution containing the contact, responsibility, status, and physical location information for each satellite telephone. A concept of operations and standard operating procedures must be developed to ensure that the phones are operational and available at the time of an emergency event.

This project would provide 100% statewide emergency communications coverage.

Estimated Line Item Expenditures:

Installation and Project Maintenance	$ 700,000
Air Time Bulk Purchase	$ 583,000
Total Estimated Cost	$1,283,000

The satellite phone system will be purchased through a Homeland Security grant.

Lockheed Martin Corporation (LMC) was awarded the contract to develop the ISSEMCMP, with the additional responsibility to negotiate a single source provider for satellite phone equipment, with a penetration rate of 99.99 percent of the entire state, using a "pooled" minute purchase plan for all participants at a single one time up front cost. There will be a minimum of one phone in every community with a population of over 25.

The airtime bulk purchase is a pooled minute purchase plan with minutes that never lapse. The current price is 17 cents per minute. This includes:

- 6 second roll ups (not roll to the next full minute),
- unlimited time per call,
- completely pooled minutes,
- open window to purchase additional minutes at various break points and order time elements
- no call initiation fee ($10.20 for aircraft use) ,
- no penalties for call drops up to a certain number per defined period
- the ability to track phone use,
- duration of calls,
- an alarm feature if call goes over "x" minutes.

Installation: There will be 2 types of installation. In smaller communities, the phone will reside with the lead public safety official. These phones will have minimal installation costs since the state will take receipt of the phones, inventory them, and get them to the customer with the hand receipt and other associated documents (user manuals, etc).

In larger communities, the department may install a pole downlink. This will allow multiple units to link to the downlink. Installation costs will vary depending travel costs to the community but will be higher than just the single phone in smaller communities. However, the advantage of the pole downlink is if a community has existing satellite phones, they will be able to use the downlink and the pooled minutes.

A contractor will identify which customers qualify for the phones or phones and pole downlink and will develop the internal processes that will allow the state to manage the devices.