

**Agency: Commerce, Community and Economic Development****Grants to Municipalities (AS 37.05.315)****Grant Recipient: Saint Paul****Project Title:****Saint Paul - Municipal Fire Station****State Funding Requested: \$ 200,000****House District: 37 - S**

One-Time Need

**Brief Project Description:**

Construction of a Fire Station for the City of Saint Paul.

**Funding Plan:****Total Cost of Project: \$1,200,000**

	<u>Funding Secured</u>		<u>Other Pending Requests</u>		<u>Anticipated Future Need</u>	
	<i>Amount</i>	<i>FY</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>FY</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>FY</i>
State Funds	\$300,000	2006				
Local Funds	\$200,000	2008				
Other	\$500,000	2006				
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,000,000</b>					

*Explanation of Other Funds:*

\$500,000 from the Central Bering Sea Fisherman's Association

**Detailed Project Description and Justification:**

Due to a property ownership agreement between the local village corporation and NOAA, the City was required to vacate the building they used as a municipal fire station.

Outside storage is not an option for Saint Paul Island, where weather and climate conditions can be severe. There are no other facilities on the island large enough to house the two fire trucks and associated emergency response equipment and supplies. The City currently houses all of the vehicles and equipment in four different locations due to lack of options.

There are fifteen active volunteer firefighters within the community who have no "home". Nowhere to practice training exercises or to attend academic trainings.

This money is the last piece to finish construction.

**Project Timeline:**

Saint Paul believes they can finish the project 4 months after receiving money

**Entity Responsible for the Ongoing Operation and Maintenance of this Project:**

City of Saint Paul

**Grant Recipient Contact Information:**

Contact Name: Linda Snow  
Phone Number: 546-2331  
Address: PO Box 901, Saint Paul, 99660  
Email: lsnow@stpaulak.com

Has this project been through a public review process at the local level and is it a community priority?  Yes  No



CITY OF SAINT PAUL

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January 17, 2008

Representative Bryce Edgmon  
State Capitol—MS 31  
Juneau, AK 99801

Subject: Municipal Fire Station Funding Request

Dear Representative Edgmon:

I am writing on behalf of the Mayor and City Council to provide you with the enclosed information about our most important capital project priority for FY09 legislative funding consideration.

This public safety project is critical in a community where the majority of houses are an average of only 25 feet apart and were built in the early 1900's by the federal government during the heyday of fur seal harvesting. None of these houses would meet building code standards, and we are most concerned about the dangers of faulty electrical wiring. The community school, church and grocery store are all located in close proximity to these old houses. As you know, any normal day on Saint Paul Island is a windy day. As described in the attached narrative, all of our firefighting vehicles and equipment are temporarily housed in four different locations. Since every second counts in a fire response, we are exceedingly vulnerable to a rapidly spreading fire situation getting totally out of control before our volunteer department could muster a full response.

Should you wish to discuss the fire station project, please do not hesitate to contact me by telephone at (907) 546-3113 or by email at [lsnowsaintpaul@msn.com](mailto:lsnowsaintpaul@msn.com). Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Linda L. Snow  
City Manager

Cc: Clark Gruening, Esq.

Enclosures

**CITY OF SAINT PAUL, ALASKA**  
**Capital Improvement Project Narrative**  
**February 2008**

**Project Name:** Municipal Fire Station

**Revised (Feb 2008) Design & Cost Estimate:** \$1,200,000--

**Local Funding Sources:**

City of Saint Paul	200,000--
Central Bering Sea Fishermen's Association	500,000--

**State of Alaska:**

FY06 Legislative Appropriation	300,000--
This Request	<u>200,000--</u>
<b>Total Project Cost Estimate</b>	<b><u>\$1,200,000--</u></b>

**Project Justification & Narrative:**

In 2004, due to property ownership agreements between the federal government (NOAA) and the local village corporation (TDX), the City was required to vacate the building it was using as a municipal fire station. Incidentally, this was the very same building that NOAA had used as a fire station when it was managing the Saint Paul Island prior to the transition from federal management to local management in 1983.

Saint Paul Island weather and climate conditions are prohibitive for the outside storage of nearly everything, but particularly for emergency response vehicles, equipment and supplies. Since there are no other available or vacant existing facilities on the island large enough to house the two fire trucks and associated emergency response equipment and supplies, including turn-out gear and fire hoses, the City had no other choice but to parcel out the vehicles, equipment and supplies to four different buildings within the community. Retrieving these essential resources from four different locations (each with different keys held by different people) is a dysfunctional and time-consuming process, which severely jeopardizes the protection of community lives and property.

At present, there are fifteen active volunteer firefighters within the community who are having a very difficult time maintaining morale and cohesiveness as a group, when they have no "home." They have nowhere to practice training exercises or to convene regular academic trainings and meetings in a place where they have access to their own vehicles, equipment and supplies and where they don't have to pre-schedule use of a meeting room with other island entities. Recently, the Central Bering Sea Fishermen's Association committed \$500,000 to the construction project in return for a long-term lease of crane storage space in the building. This demonstration of community support helped immensely to ramp up the energies of the volunteer firefighters themselves, and they have been able to raise approximately \$6,000 to-date towards the purchase of brand new interior furnishings for the first and only, brand new St. Paul Municipal Fire Station.