

Agency: Commerce, Community and Economic Development

Grants to Municipalities (AS 37.05.315)

Grant Recipient: Saxman

Project Title:

Saxman - Saxman Community Center Visitor and Cruise Passenger Facility Improvements

State Funding Requested: \$ 1,500,000

House District: 1 - A

One-Time Need

Brief Project Description:

Funds to rebuild Saxman Community Hall.

Funding Plan:

Total Cost of Project: \$2,600,000

	<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>
Rasmuson Foundation			\$400,000	2009		
Local Funds	\$1,100,000	2008				
Total	\$1,100,000		\$400,000			

Detailed Project Description and Justification:

Item is \$1.5 million to complete a rebuilding of the Saxman Community Center. On February 11, 1999 the community center collapsed from snow load. The community hall was the center of our community for potlatches, basketball, church retreats and revival meetings, youth activities and a fitness center. The community hall was the focal point of the community and served many functions. During the summer months the hall was used by Cape Fox Tours as a starting place for the tourists visiting our village.

Since that time the community, through fundraising and grants have been able to replace the shell of the building and the theater portion to maintain use by Cape Fox Tours during tourism season. The theater has also been utilized for private parties that include weddings and funerals as well as the voting venue for the City of Saxman. We also have an active youth Tae-Kwon-Do program that meets weekly.

Completion of the community hall has been the number one priority for the City of Saxman, and state funding and grants through the Rasmussen Foundation will help rebuild a safe place for recreation and community activities in Saxman.

Project Timeline:

FY09-FY10: The project is scheduled to be completed within two years of receiving full funding.

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

City of Saxman

Grant Recipient Contact Information:

Contact Name: Chuck Denny, Mayor
Phone Number: (907) 225-4166
Address: 2706 South Tongass Hwy KTN,AK
Email: ctdenny@kpunet.net

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



THE COMMUNITY OF KETCHIKAN



Saxman Community Center

PROJECT SUMMARY:

Funds are needed to complete the Saxman Community Hall. Completion of the community hall has been the number one priority for the City of Saxman and our surrounding community for the last seven years.

FUNDING REQUEST	
REQUESTED	\$1,500,000
MATCHING/LOCAL	\$1,100,000
TOTAL	\$2,600,000

PROJECT HISTORY:

On February 11, 1999 the community lost its community building to a collapse from snow load. The building was 7,800 square feet and was built in 1968.

The community hall was the center of our community for potlatches, basketball, church retreats and revival meetings, youth activities and a fitness center. The community hall was the focal point of the community and served many functions. During the summer months the hall was used by Cape Fox Tours as a starting place for the tourists visiting our village.



Destroyed Saxman Community Hall



Current Saxman Community Hall

Since that time we have been able to replace the shell of the building as well as complete the theater portion so that Cape Fox Tours could once again have a beginning point for their village tour. The theater has also been utilized for private parties that include weddings and funerals as well as the voting venue for the City of Saxman. We also have an active youth Tae-Kwon-Do program that meets weekly.

VISION:

The community center needs to be completed. We have been sitting on it for a very long time and the longer it goes without completion, the higher the risk that it will have to make major repairs before being able to complete it. At this point we will have to replace all the windows because finishing work was not done and the water has leaked in causing severe damage to the walls and casements. We desperately need to be able to move on to other projects and until the community hall is completed we are unable to do so.

(Continued on page 8)



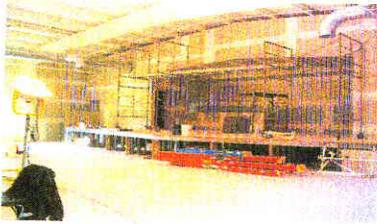
THE COMMUNITY OF KETCHIKAN



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NEED:

The City of Saxman needs \$2,600,000 to complete this project. We have potential funding of \$400,000 from the Rasmussen Foundation and possible funding available from EDA. We are requesting \$1,500,000 from the state.



Before and after pictures of the Cultural Presentation Theater



KETCHIKAN GATEWAY BOROUGH

344 FRONT STREET • KETCHIKAN, ALASKA 99901

OFFICE OF THE BOROUGH MANAGER

April 24, 2008

The Honorable Sarah Palin
Governor
State of Alaska
P.O. Box 110001
Juneau, AK 99811-0001

Re: Ketchikan-Area Projects in the FY 2009 State Capital Budget

Dear Governor Palin:

As you review Ketchikan-area projects in the State Capital Budget, please keep in mind the following:

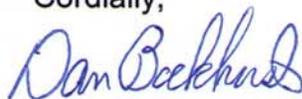
1. Ketchikan projects underwent a careful local review: For 30 years, it has been the custom in Ketchikan that proposals for legislative funding of projects must undergo a rigorous local review. For FY 2009, a coalition of more than 25 local organizations including the Ketchikan Gateway Borough, City of Ketchikan, City of Saxman, and others such as the Planning Commission, School Board, Native organizations, Chamber of Commerce, and seniors met on five occasions to review and ultimately endorse the projects proposed for funding through the FY 2009 State Capital Budget.
2. Ketchikan projects were also subject to independent review at the State level: Ketchikan projects included in the FY 2009 State Capital Budget have been independently reviewed by State officials. For example, funding for major maintenance on the Schoenbar School was ranked by the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development as the most needy major maintenance school project in all of Alaska. In every case, Senator Stedman and Representative Johansen endorsed the projects included in the FY 2009 Capital Budget only after they independently determined that the projects served a vital public purpose.
3. Ketchikan projects focus on critical needs, particularly with respect to education, health, public safety, and economic development: Ketchikan projects included in the State Capital Budget relate to essential public services or to efforts to rebuild an economy that was dealt a terrible blow with the significant decline of the timber industry. In most cases, the tie between each capital project and core

services or economic development is evident (e.g., fire stations, school projects, shipyard development, and hospital expansion). In a few cases, the link may be less evident to those not well acquainted with the proposal. For example, the Capital Budget includes funds to complete the Fawn Mountain sports field. That facility adjoins our Fawn Mountain School and serves the physical education needs of students in the Ketchikan Gateway Borough School District. It also promotes general health among other users of the facility.

4. Ketchikan has committed local funds to proposed capital projects: Ketchikan has committed a significant level of local funding for projects included in the State Capital Budget. Additionally, as you weigh the level of local support for projects in the Capital Budget, please consider the fiscal burden already in place on the taxpayers of Ketchikan. For example, the cost of unfunded-State mandates imposed on the Ketchikan Gateway Borough government will amount to nearly \$11 million in FY 2009 (details are available upon request).
5. While the Legislature has been generous in terms of capital funding for FY 2009, it certainly has not been irresponsible: Many capital project needs in the Ketchikan were deferred during the lean years that Alaska faced since the mid-1980s. This year, however, the resources of the Alaska state government allow a responsible effort to address those deferred capital needs. While the Capital Budget amounts to some \$3 billion, the Legislature has also managed to save \$5 billion. In your State-of-the-State Address in January of this year, you emphasized the importance of sharing the State's wealth with communities. In the context of deferred capital needs and the \$5 billion in savings for FY 2009, the Capital Budget is a responsible action by the Legislature.

If you desire clarification of any of the points raised above, or if you would like additional information concerning any Ketchikan area project included in the FY 2009 State Capital Budget, please feel free to contact me.

Cordially,



Dan Bockhorst
Borough Manager

cc: Karen Rehfeld, Director, Office of Management and Budget
The Honorable Bert Stedman, State Senator, District A
The Honorable Kyle Johansen, State Representative, District 1