

**Wildland Fire Truck Replacement Phase 1****FY2009 Request: \$625,000****Reference No: 33955****AP/AL:** Appropriation**Project Type:** Health and Safety**Category:** Public Protection**Location:** Statewide**Contact:** Leta Simons**House District:** Statewide (HD 1-40)**Contact Phone:** (907)465-2400**Estimated Project Dates:** 07/01/2008 - 06/30/2009**Brief Summary and Statement of Need:**

Fire engines are essential for initial attack wildland fire fighting in meeting primary objective of containing 90% of fires at ten acres or less on lands in "full" and "critical" protection. Overall, the Division responds to an average of 400+ wildland fires/year, primarily in high value urban interface areas. Replacement would decrease the reliance on out-dated engines and increases margin of safety for fire fighters. This supports the mission to manage fires in the most effective and cost efficient manner possible, meeting statutory requirements to provide wildland fire protection on all state, municipal, and private lands.

<b>Funding:</b>	FY2009	FY2010	FY2011	FY2012	FY2013	FY2014	Total
Gen Fund	\$625,000	\$625,000					\$1,250,000
<b>Total:</b>	\$625,000	\$625,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,250,000

<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
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

**Additional Information / Prior Funding History:**

SLA02/CH1 \$ 400,000 Complete

**Project Description/Justification:**

It is the intent of AS 41.15.010 – 41.15.170 to provide protection, commensurate with the value of the resources at risk, for the natural resources and watersheds on land that is owned privately, by the State or a municipality.

In addition, AS 18.70.320 states, "It is the policy of the state to protect its residents and their property from the ravages of fire...The legislature finds that fire is a constant threat and that homes, places of employment, modes of transportation, and our natural resources needs a system of fire protection..."

In support of the intent of this legislation, the department will purchase one Type 3 (medium) fire engine and three Type 6 (light) engines. Forestry fire engines are first responders to urban/wildland interface fires in areas such as the Anchorage hillside, Kenai Peninsula Borough, and the Fairbanks North Star Borough. It is essential that the State maintain equipment to industry standards in order to limit liability, ensure safety, and provide reliable response capability.

Engines provide the initial attack capacity critical for urban interface wildland fire protection. This is a combination of Type 6 and Type 3 engines. The Type 6 engines provide quick response and maneuverability as well as the capability of patrolling long distances in Division of Forestry's protection areas. Engine crewmembers often provide first on-scene evaluation of values at risk, potential fire behavior, additional resources needed, and mobile communications. Type 3

engines can provide additional crewmembers (up to five), up to 500 to 750 gallons of water with fire suppressant foam, and provide additional equipment that can be used to keep potentially large fires at their minimum acreage.

During 2007 and after completion of the Alaska wildland fire season, the Division of Forestry supplied ten engines to the Boise Interagency Fire Coordination Center. These engines provided support and wildland fire suppression capabilities for the Northern Rockies in and around the Missoula, Montana Area. The mission lasted more than 50 days, employed 30 personnel, and garnered revenue to offset the vehicles' operating costs and advance the maturity date for replacement of the vehicles.

### **Why is this Project Needed Now?:**

Maintenance costs on outdated equipment increase proportionately to age and use. Engines needing replacement have out dated technology such as two point safety restraints as well as deteriorating utility bodies. In working with or directly in support of local fire departments, the cooperative effort benefits the public with improved service, reduced costs, and successful engine response to wildland fire.

Engine replacement requires lead time and planning as the vehicles are manufactured by specialty GSA contractors. Engines must be ordered as far as a year in advance. Wildland fire activity has been increasing in the past several years in all of DNR's protection responsibilities. This is a reflection of the increased population, their propensity in building in both remote and urban fire prone areas, and fire seasons that are beginning to start earlier, have increased intensity, and are prolonged.

### **Specific Spending Detail:**

<u>LINE ITEM</u>	<u>DOLLAR AMOUNT</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION (text)</u>
Personal Services	\$ 5,000	Time to monitor and inspect engines prior to acceptance.
Travel	\$ 5,000	Travel to facilities for vehicle inspections prior to delivery.
Services	\$ 15,000	Shipping from Freemont, Indiana to Alaska
Capital Outlay	\$ 600,000	Purchase of one Type 3 engine (\$195.0 per engine) and three Type 6 engines (\$135.0 per engine)

The Division of Forestry's fire engines are critical to successful initial attack in the wildland fire arena. Reliance on the aging fleet is increasing risk to fire fighters and the values to protect. The wildland fire engines for the Division of Forestry's program were first upgraded in 1984. In 1999, a program began to replace outdated equipment. Seventeen engines were replaced utilizing Department of Transportation and Public Facilities equipment funding and a 2002 CIP (SLA 2002, Ch 1, Sec 1, Pg 43, Ln 8) has been completed. Since then an additional ten engines have been scheduled to be replaced for the past five years. Replacement costs have not been funded since 2002 and now, additional engines need replacement.

### **Project Support:**

Continued support from the Alaska State Fire Chiefs Association, Interior Fire Chiefs Association, (Kenai Peninsula, Mat/Su, Fairbanks North Star, and Denali) Boroughs, 60+ local fire departments, and the general public who receive the benefit of increased wildland fire protection.

### **Project Opposition:**

No anticipated opposition.