

**Safety and Support Equipment for Probation Officers,
Social Workers, and Pioneer Home Residents and Staff**

**FY2009 Request: \$837,800
Reference No: 32446**

AP/AL: Appropriation

Project Type: Equipment

Category: Health/Human Services

Location: Statewide

Contact: Arnold Liebelt

House District: Statewide (HD 1-40)

Contact Phone: (907)465-1870

Estimated Project Dates: 07/01/2008 - 06/30/2013

Brief Summary and Statement of Need:

This project will provide for statewide safety, security and equipment improvements for probation officers, social workers, and Alaska Pioneer Home residents and staff. Funds will be used for fixed and movable equipment to support the Divisions' programs.

Funding:	FY2009	FY2010	FY2011	FY2012	FY2013	FY2014	Total
Fed Rcpts	\$87,800	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$1,337,800
G/F Match	\$399,700	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$5,399,700
Gen Fund	\$350,300	\$48,094	\$48,094	\$48,094	\$48,094	\$48,094	\$590,770
Total:	\$837,800	\$1,298,094	\$1,298,094	\$1,298,094	\$1,298,094	\$1,298,094	\$7,328,270

State Match Required One-Time Project Phased - new Phased - underway On-Going
82% = Minimum State Match % Required Amendment 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
Totals:	0	0

Additional Information / Prior Funding History:

CH30/SLA07/P95/L30 \$382.1 GF
 CH82/SLA06/P74/L5 - \$28.4 GF, \$320.2 GF Match, and \$151.4 Federal
 CH159/SLA04/P27/L10 - \$350.0 Federal Unrestricted and \$130.2 Federal
 CH82/SLA03/P29/L8 - \$260.0 GF and \$135.0 Federal
 CH1/SSSLA02/P40/L26 - \$400 GF and \$714.2 Federal
 CH61/SLA01/P19/L11 - \$200.0 GF and \$2,331.0 Federal
 CH135/SLA00/P14/L21 - \$163.2 AHFC Dividends and \$38.9 Federal

Project Description/Justification:

This project includes a broad range of equipment needed for the Department's operations. It is the intent of the Department that funds will be used for the acquisition of equipment necessary to improve quality of life for Alaska Pioneer Home residents and to improve security and efficiency for Alaska Pioneer Home workers, Juvenile Justice detention and probation officers, and Office of Children's Services workers throughout the state.

The list of equipment presented in this request includes all known equipment needs. The Department will purchase equipment based on the list below to the greatest extent possible. However, actual allocation of funds for particular equipment will depend on a determination of current needs at the time that funds become available.

A. Division of Alaska Pioneer Homes \$94.0

Resident Lifts \$94.0

**Safety and Support Equipment for Probation Officers,
Social Workers, and Pioneer Home Residents and Staff**

**FY2009 Request: \$837,800
Reference No: 32446**

Employee injuries at the Pioneer Homes are significant and costly. Over the last five years worker's compensation incurred costs have been over \$7.5 million.

Workers' Compensation Incurred Cost Data

	FY2003-FY2007				
	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Anchorage Pioneer Home	\$1,128,73		\$1,407,06		
	2	\$856,738	9	\$367,916	\$63,243
Fairbanks Pioneer Home	\$786,712	\$99,047	\$358,783	\$138,853	\$298,628
Juneau Pioneer Home	\$54,187	\$391,657	\$26,460	\$13,996	\$22,589
Ketchikan Pioneer Home	\$80,874	\$26,057	\$336,874	\$48,989	\$68,007
Palmer Pioneer Home	\$318,121	\$239,169	\$56,833	\$139,428	\$195,426
Sitka Pioneer Home	\$31,081	\$12,445	\$42,112	\$73,073	\$212,725
	\$2,399,70	\$1,625,11	\$2,228,13		
Total	8	3	1	\$782,254	\$860,618
				Total 2003-2007	\$7,895,824

The majority of these injuries have involved moving and lifting residents. The Department hired a consultant to review the current resident handling-programs and to devise a new safe resident-handling program with the objective of reducing staff injury claims resulting from lifting and moving residents. Such programs have a proven track record of reducing by 25-40% injuries related to lifting and moving patients.

The consultant evaluated the layout of the home and existing resident lift equipment to determine the potential severity of employee injury while lifting and repositioning residents. He found that:

- (1) the space and nature of activities occurring in the bathing room made it difficult to fully approach and manage a resident during the bathing process,
- (2) the current lifts are unable to handle residents weighing more than 440 pounds, and
- (3) the home is short of non-powered tools used to reposition residents in bed, assist with turning and standing, and to assist at other times when a powered lift is not ideal. This shortage results in considerable manual effort.

The consultant recommended a comprehensive zero lift program and specific equipment to reduce the risk of employee injury and to provide for a safer working environment. This program and equipment will reduce workers' compensation costs and employee absenteeism, conserve State resources, increase employee productivity, and improve resident care.

The recommended equipment includes a bariatric lift to handle residents weighing more than 440 pounds, six ceiling lifts, allowing the caregiver complete access to the resident and to all areas of the room without portable equipment being in the way, and other miscellaneous lifts and transfer accessories. The project cost is based on vendor estimates.

**B. Division of Juvenile Justice \$256.3
Fairbanks Youth Facility \$52.8**

Radio Replacement. The Fairbanks Youth Facility (FYF), in conjunction with Fairbanks probation, needs to upgrade their radio system to the Alaska Land Mobile Radio (ALMR) system. Currently the radios are inadequate because of limited range and channel reception. The system currently in use is similar to the old analog phone system, and the other agencies use digital radios. Radios needs include 15 hand-held radios, five vehicle-mounted radios, one base station, two desktop remotes, one gang charger, antenna and connectors.

Juvenile justice officers are statutorily required to maintain sight and sound separation between juveniles in custody and adult prisoners. It is not possible to maintain this separation in the court building because existing radios prevent adequate communication between adult probation and youth probation officers. Existing radios do

**Safety and Support Equipment for Probation Officers,
Social Workers, and Pioneer Home Residents and Staff**

**FY2009 Request: \$837,800
Reference No: 32446**

not allow communication with the Fairbanks Police Department or the Alaska State Troopers. The Division received a portion of the necessary funding in FY08 for these radios. With this FY09 funding, the division will be able to purchase the remaining radios needed to allow staff to communicate with other law enforcement agencies in the city.

McLaughlin Youth Center \$119.8

MYC Radio Replacement - McLaughlin Youth Center (MYC) has 40 Motorola 1250 radios. They now use the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) emergency broadcast channel because the frequency that was used by MYC was given to Homeland Security for the Alaska Land Mobile Radio (ALMR) project. We have encountered severe communication interference in sharing a channel with DEC. It is doubtful that MYC will again have its own frequency. Additionally, Anchorage Police Department went to the ALMR technology in October 2006, and MYC can no longer communicate with them via radio for support when necessary in the event of a critical incident such as a riot, escape, hostage, etc., and have no backup to do so if other communications systems such as phone and cell failed at the same time. Enterprise Technology Services wants users to purchase the new ALMR radios. This improvement will bring our radios up to current technology and increase safety and security of the facility, residents and staff.

These requested funds will be used to purchase 40 Motorola XTS 500 Model II radios with options Q806, H38, Q361, H14 and Q393 to replace the existing Motorola 1250 radios. The Division requested funding for these radios in FY08 and received a portion of the funding necessary to do this. This request contains the remaining funds to complete the entire project.

Mat-Su Youth Facility \$21.0

Washing Machine and Dishwasher \$15.7

Upgrade power supply in kitchen and laundry areas, and purchase and install commercial-grade dishwasher and washing machines. This equipment would perform more efficiently than the current machines. With improved electrical service, chemical-based sanitizing techniques, which have a potential poison risk, could be replaced with a non-toxic high-temperature sanitizing system. More of the laundry could be washed at the facility instead of being sent to Anchorage weekly. Dirty laundry would no longer be left lying around for a week, which would improve sanitation conditions since the laundry is smelly and moldy in summer, and reduce the potential for hiding contraband. Both improvements would provide residents at MSYF with better, safer opportunities to learn kitchen and laundry skills than those available to them with the current configuration.

Digital Video Recording System \$5.3

Hardware, software and training are needed for enhancing the digital recording. Currently, live video feed can be monitored but not recorded. Local police and State Troopers have requested us to acquire this upgrade to the system. Interviews with police or probation officers and juvenile offenders cannot be saved with the current configuration. With a recording system, activities on the unit could be recorded, reviewed and used as evidence in the event of major incidents involving resident-resident assault, resident-staff assault, resident restraints, riots or any other emergency encountered on the unit.

Equipment for All Facilities - \$30.3

CPR Mannequins

Mannequins wear out and need to be replaced to ensure proper and timely training for all staff.

Automated External Defibrillators (AED)

Staff is trained on the use of an AED. Evidence shows that a victim has a much better chance of survival if an AED is used as quickly as possible after CPR has begun. This will provide one AED for each of our offices (including facilities, probation and Director's Office).

Probation Services Ongoing Needs \$32.4

Probation officers need a full range of basic equipment in order for them to carry out the primary responsibilities of their position. The items below represent these equipment needs. Funds will be used to purchase the highest priority items at the time funds become available.

**Safety and Support Equipment for Probation Officers,
Social Workers, and Pioneer Home Residents and Staff**

**FY2009 Request: \$837,800
Reference No: 32446**

Soft Body Armor/Ballistic vests - Vests have a life of five years before they must be replaced. This request accounts for those that should be replaced in FY09.

Juvenile Transport Vehicles Radios– Purchase radios for field services vehicles for those that do not have radios that allow for contact with local law enforcement or the nearest facility.

Hand-Held Radios – Purchase of hand-held radios for officer safety. Ratio of radios per officer will vary from 1:1 in small offices to 1:2 in larger offices.

Jackets/Officer ID/Arrest, Transport – With heightened post 9/11 security at malls and airports, it is critical that juvenile probation officers and social services associates wear gear that easily identifies them as officers. Purchase jackets, officer identification tags, and hats.

Handcuffs and cases – Additional handcuffs are needed for new officers and for offices that do not have enough handcuffs. Cuff cases are critical equipment for officers. Handcuffs need to be hidden from view and need to be easily accessed when making an arrest.

Cuff Waist Belts – Purchase cuff waist belts and leg irons for offices that do not currently have these restraints.

Walk-Thru Metal Detectors – Several offices do not have barriers to aid with security and office access control. Because these offices are not co-located in juvenile justice facilities, they usually do not have access to larger security screening devices. Walk-thru metal detectors are needed in offices where construction of barriers is prohibitive due to office layout.

Hand-Held Metal Detectors – Several offices are in need of new hand held security devices because the old units do not work.

Digital Cameras – Access to a digital camera is critical to be able to take initial photos for the case file in the Juvenile Offender Management Information System. These pictures assist if and when warrants are issued for juveniles who escape.

New Cage for Vehicle/Arrest, Mat-Su Vehicle Safety Barrier – The existing vehicle cage for the Mat-Su transport vehicle is in poor shape and limits visibility. The cage hampers safety of arrestees and officers. New cage for vehicle is needed.

Emergency Call Button Installation and/or Improvement – Currently, there are several offices without barriers to restrict public access or any connection to juvenile justice facilities. These offices would benefit from "man down" devices that alert local law enforcement there is an emergency in the office.

C. Office of Children's Services \$487.5

In Office of Children's Services (OCS) field offices, basic operating equipment is aging and inefficient. Replacement of this equipment supports the ability of front line workers to perform their function of protecting Alaska's children from abuse and neglect. The office also needs to upgrade and replace out-dated computer related items in several regions, and provide adequate equipment to implement the OCS emergency response plan.

Statewide Phone Systems Replacement \$136.0

The division requests funds to replace old and outdated phone systems in many of its field offices. Since the phone systems in these areas are obsolete, service, support and replacement parts are difficult to obtain or are often unavailable. Interruptions in phone service interrupt daily activities, and prevent necessary contact with the public. OCS needs to replace these phone systems to avoid lengthy service interruption before complete failure occurs. Updating or upgrading the phone systems is not an option as parts are no longer available or difficult to obtain. Projected costs to fund replacement phones were derived using estimates provided by local phone service providers and by Enterprise Technology Services.

Aniak	\$16.9
Bethel	\$23.2

**Safety and Support Equipment for Probation Officers,
Social Workers, and Pioneer Home Residents and Staff**

**FY2009 Request: \$837,800
Reference No: 32446**

Dillingham	\$16.9
Glennallen	\$16.9
Kenai	\$23.2
Kodiak	\$12.6
St.Mary's	\$6.3
Seward	\$6.3
Unalaska	\$6.3
<u>Barrow</u>	<u>\$7.4</u>
Total	\$136.0

Transportation – \$162.1

The Office of Children's Services requests capital funds for vehicles in the Southcentral region. OCS child protection workers spend between 50-60% of their work week out of the office performing investigations, conducting home visits, going to court, transporting children, attending case planning meetings, and performing other case-related activities. Workers must frequently use their personal vehicles to conduct these activities when a state-owned vehicle is not available.

Hazards faced by workers and the children they transport include heavy snowfall, extreme temperatures, and unsafe driving conditions. OCS workers must have enough vehicles to transport themselves and the children that they are charged to protect out of potentially dangerous situations. Use of employee-owned vehicles to respond to reports of harm or to transport children exposes the employee and the State to potential liability. The eight communities listed below are in need of vehicles. The six vehicles purchased with these funds would go to six of these communities.

Barrow
Bethel
Dillingham
Glennallen
Kenai
Kodiak
St. Mary's
Unalaska

Laptops – \$75.0

Laptops are needed as part of the division's Emergency Response Plan and for social workers in field offices.

Under the OCS Emergency Response Plan, additional laptops and flash drives will be necessary for division staff to ensure the safety of children and families during times of disaster should the OCS information system become unavailable for use. Laptops will enable OCS staff to track children and families, assist in locating children and families and monitor child protection cases. Flash drives will allow workers to access caseload and other child protective services data stored in the event that the OCS ORCA system is unavailable to workers.

Replacement laptop computers are needed for child protection workers in field offices. By replacing these computers, staff will be able to serve families more efficiently as well as save repeated costly repair to equipment that is outdated. Laptops will enable front line workers to track children and families, access the division's Online Resource for the Children of Alaska (ORCA) information system, monitor and maintain case loads and respond more efficiently to requests for data. The department estimates purchasing approximately 40 laptops.

Communication Equipment – \$40.8

VHS radios will enable communication between OCS staff that may need to contact other staff members, foster families or emergency and outside personnel in times of disaster if telephones are not working. These radios will be critical in emergencies if normal communication systems are out of service. Funds are also needed to purchase cell phones for office workers to ensure ongoing communication among staff and outside organizations when ground line communication systems are not available. Radios and cell phones will increase safety and security of child protection workers and the children and families they serve.

Office of Children's Services Emergency Response Plan – \$73.6

The Office of Children's Services has been mandated through Federal statute, under Senate Bill 3525, The Child and Family Services Improvement Act, 2006, to develop and implement a statewide Emergency Response Plan (ERP) for children in custody and resource families in the State of Alaska. There are no federal guidance, program instructions, formats or resources to develop and implement state disaster plans. However, state emergency response plans are required for OCS to continue to receive federal funding. Additionally, it is simply best practice to ensure the safety of children and families by having a solid, well-practiced and reliable plan.

Federal statute requires that plans for the following five actions be included in each state's plan:

1. Identify, locate and continue availability of services for children under State care or supervision who are displaced or adversely affected by a disaster.
2. Respond, as appropriate, to new child welfare cases in areas affected by a disaster and provide services to those cases.
3. Remain in communication with case workers and other essential child welfare personnel who are displaced because of a disaster.
4. Preserve essential program and case records.
5. Coordinate services and share information with other states.

The Office of Children's Services has developed a plan that includes these components in at least one, and more often several, of its components. New equipment, tools, safety kits, and other items are needed in order to be able to implement the plan. Funding of these items is essential to enable the State of Alaska to meet federal requirements for safety of children and families during times of emergency. Failure to fully fund these items puts children and families at risk of further harm. Listed below are tools, equipment and safety items.

Funds are requested to deploy the plan to the OCS regional and field offices statewide. Deployment of the overall OCS statewide plan, development of the field and regional plans, and collaborating with the State's Local Emergency Planning Commissions, local tribes, and partner agencies to ensure safety of children and families during emergency response is the crucial next step to meeting the federal requirements. The ability to travel to OCS regional offices to present the overall OCS statewide plan and provide technical assistance for development of regional and field office plans is the crux of success for those plans.

Funds would pay for the deployment of the plan including the purchase VHS Radios and cellular phones to enable communication between OCS staff and with families or emergency and outside personnel in times of disaster. Advanced first aid kits to be maintained in OCS offices will provide workers the supplies and equipment necessary for them to take appropriate action and administer care to children and families until emergency personnel are available. First Aid certification will provide OCS staff with the skills needed to administer CPR and first aid in case of an emergency.

Department's Mission: *To promote and protect the health and well being of Alaskans.* This project supports the Department's mission by providing vehicles and equipment that will allow staff to carry out their responsibilities effectively and in a safe manner.

The end results to which this project contributes are "Provide a safe environment for Alaska pioneers and veterans", "Improve juvenile offenders' success in the community following completion of services resulting in higher levels of accountability and public safety" and " Children are, first and foremost, protected from abuse or neglect."