

Sale and Replacement of Tactical Firefighting Aircraft**FY2010 Request: \$2,600,000****Reference No: 49202****AP/AL:** Appropriation**Project Type:** Life / Health / Safety**Category:** Natural Resources**Location:** Statewide**Contact:** Unknown**House District:** Statewide (HD 1-40)**Contact Phone:** (999)999-9999**Estimated Project Dates:** 04/19/2010 - 06/30/2014**Brief Summary and Statement of Need:**

Supporting the Division of Forestry's (DOF's) wildland fire/public safety mission is dependent on having fast, reliable aircraft to respond to and help suppress wildland fires. Current aircraft lack the speed to respond to timely to incidents, and are becoming increasingly less reliable. This project will allow DOF to continue the Lead Plan program with aircraft suited for a faster tanker fleet, and that can be supported and maintained long-term. DOF will sell its two PC-7 lead planes and acquire two multi-engine, high-wing, pressurized, all-weather turbine aircraft. Proceeds from the sale of the PC-7's will be used to purchase the new planes, along with the funding from this CIP request.

Funding:	<u>FY2010</u>	<u>FY2011</u>	<u>FY2012</u>	<u>FY2013</u>	<u>FY2014</u>	<u>FY2015</u>	<u>Total</u>
Gen Fund	\$600,000						\$600,000
GF/Prgm	\$2,000,000						\$2,000,000
Total:	\$2,600,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,600,000

<input type="checkbox"/> State Match Required	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> One-Time Project	<input type="checkbox"/> Phased - new	<input type="checkbox"/> Phased - underway	<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
Totals:	0	0

Additional Information / Prior Funding History:

New Project – No Prior Funding History

Project Description/Justification:

DOF responds to an average of 400+ fires per year, primarily in high-value urban-interface areas. The new aircraft will be used to maintain "all-weather" capability, with multi-engine safety and redundancy. This request supports meeting statutory requirements to provide fire protection on all state, municipal, and private lands. Specifically, the goal is to suppress 90% of wildfires at 10 acres or less in critical and full-protection areas.

The replacement of aircraft will take place over an eighteen-month period. The division has been advised by the Pilatus North American distributor of the state's current PC-7 aircraft that the best value on the resale market would be received if the aircraft were sold one at a time. This will require a short-term lease of an interim replacement aircraft over two fire seasons while sales of the existing aircraft and acquisition of replacement aircraft take place.

The anticipated revenue from the sale of the PC-7 aircraft is \$1.8 million, and the purchase price of the replacement aircraft is estimated at \$2.4 million. Funding for the new aircraft is dependent on

supplemental budget language that will allow use of the sale proceeds, and approval of this budget request.

Why is this Project Needed Now?

Current aircraft lack the speed to respond timely to incidents, and are increasingly unreliable. Maintenance costs are increasing, and parts will eventually become unavailable.

The impact of not replacing these aircraft is that the state may have inadequate air resources to safely combat wildland fires that threaten resources, homes, and people.

Specific Spending Detail:

<u>LINE ITEM</u>	<u>DOLLAR AMOUNT</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>
Capital Outlay	\$ 600,000	Partial cost of Aircraft acquisition to supplement the proceeds from the sale of the PC7 aircraft.

Project Support:

U.S. Department of Interior, U.S. Bureau of Land Management Alaska Fire Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, U.S. Forest Service,

Project Opposition: No anticipated opposition.