

Agency: Commerce, Community and Economic Development**Grants to Named Recipients (AS 37.05.316)****Grant Recipient: KBRW Silakkuagvik Communications, Inc.****Project Title:****Project Type: Equipment and Materials**

KBRW Silakkuagvik Communications, Inc. - Radio Station Equipment Upgrades

State Funding Requested: \$68,000**House District: 40 / T**

One-Time Need

Brief Project Description:

Funding will be used to perform system wide radio maintenance, replace outdated radio equipment and the station vehicle.
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Funding Plan:

Total Project Cost:	\$68,000
Funding Already Secured:	(\$0)
FY2012 State Funding Request:	<u>(\$68,000)</u>
Project Deficit:	\$0

Funding Details:

None

Detailed Project Description and Justification:

<p>KBRW is located in Barrow and is the only radio station serving the entire North Slope Borough community, which includes 8 outlying villages. Local residents contribute heavily to the operations of the station through fund raisers; however, this is not enough to maintain all of the equipment and fund the operations of the station. In rural Alaska KBRW because of its location has a very narrow line of site to the satellite that delivers network programming. To maintain the satellite connection, KBRW relies upon a remote downlink receiver located several miles away from the station. Presently, several components of the downlink and relay system need to be upgraded or replaced to insure the system is functional at all times. Additionally, the translator equipment used to broadcast to the outlying communities hasn't been inspected or maintained by a qualified radio engineer in several years. Currently, there are frequent broadcast interruptions reported by the communities. Inspecting and maintaining the equipment now will be less expensive then replacing the equipment later when it fails. To get to the equipment and satellites the radio station vehicle is used. The vehicle is a 1993 Ford F-150 pick-up which has seen heavy use in extreme weather conditions. Every year the station is spending an increasing amount of money to keep the truck running. At this point, it would make more sense to replace it with a newer vehicle.</p>

<p>In rural Alaska, one of the primary duties of a radio station is to provide programming that address the health, safety, and educational needs of the community. KBRW is used by all of the local public safety and weather organizations to disperse information regarding life, health, and safety issues. Such information includes search and rescue operations, storm information, travel conditions, and disease and rabies outbreaks. The radio station is a vital tool to get essential information to the hub and outlying communities in the timeliest fashion.</p>
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Project Timeline:

Money will be expended over the spring and summer.

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

KBRW-Silakkuagvik Communications, Inc.

Grant Recipient Contact Information:

Name: Mike Lane
Title: General Manager
Address: P.O. Box 109
Barrow, Alaska 99723
Phone Number: 852-6811
Email: www.kbrw.org

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

KBRW

SILAKKUAGVIK COMMUNICATIONS, INC.
COMMUNITY RADIO FOR ALASKA'S NORTH SLOPE
680 AM • 91.9 FM

88.1 FM KAKTOVIK • 88.1 FM NUIQSUT • 88.1 FM POINT LAY
101.5 FM POINT HOPE • 101.5 FM ANAKTUVUK PASS

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January 21, 2011

Senator Donny Olson
Alaska State Legislature
120 4th Street, State Capitol, Room 3
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Senator,

Happy New Session from Public Radio at the Top of the World: in 2011 we again begin anew! I write to ask for your help and guidance in securing capital funds for the benefit of KBRW (listeners). The station has immediate needs, essential to its continued well functioning, that are beyond the financial capabilities of its general operating revenue.

KBRW broadcasts into all eight North Slope Villages: Kaktovik to Pt. Hope. In five of those communities KBRW maintains FM translators, rebroadcasting to people otherwise not served by any radio station. Because of the distances between the communities, and the frugality of the Alaskan Legislature for the past many years, KBRW has not had adequate resources to send an engineer out to do maintenance on any of the translators. We are now get regular calls from several of the villages informing us of spot outages and broadcast interruptions. Maintenance is needed.

Another problem threatening KBRW's operation is the tenuous nature of our satellite connection, and the equipment used to maintain that connection. KBRW has a very tight line of site to the geo-synchronous satellite delivering our programs. Because we're located next to the airport, our downlink center is located several miles from the station, forcing us to micro-wave relay the satellite-delivered programs to the studio. The micro-wave dishes at both ends need maintenance and alignment, the facility upkeep, and the truck we depend upon to service the facilities needs to be replaced. KBRW has been spending an increasing amount annually to maintain the vehicle (1993 Ford F-150 pickup: \$2,000 in maintenance in FY 2010).

Enclosed, please find a plan to meet KBRW's needs that's both conservative and complete. We'd greatly appreciate your help in getting a Legislative appropriation to help KBRW maintain our high quality service to the people of the North Slope. Please contact me for more information.

Respectfully yours,


Mike Lane
General Manager

KBRW FY 2011 Capital Project Request
January 21, 2011

Project title: Network capable & Emergency preparedness project

Description: Public Radio station KBRW, because of its' location at 71 degrees north latitude, has a very narrow line of site to the geo-synchronous satellite that delivers network programming. To maintain the satellite connection, KBRW relies upon a remote downlink receiver located several road miles away from the station. The satellite signal, once downloaded, is then transmitted by micro-wave relay to the studio building. At present several components of the downlink & relay system need to be upgraded or replaced to insure the system's well-functioning, including replacement of the vehicle used to reach the site.

KBRW, translates (i.e. changes the AM signal to FM) and rebroadcasts it in five North Slope villages: Kaktovik, Nuiqsut, Anaktuvuk Pass, Pt. Lay, and Pt. Hope. In those communities, as well as Barrow, Atqasuk, and Wainwright (all served by KBRW's 10kw Barrow AM transmitter), KBRW is the sole source of radio information and Emergency Alert information. The translator equipment used in all of our translator communities, with the exception of Nuiqsut, hasn't been inspected, or had maintenance by a qualified radio engineer in years; as a result village listeners call regularly to report local radio broadcast interruptions. Unfortunately, we're powerless to deal with these problems due to our constrained finances. Without timely inspection, it can be assumed that at some point the equipment will fail, requiring a more expensive solution than would otherwise be the case with regular maintenance. Both components of this project: replacing needed equipment, and system-wide maintenance are prudent, and essential to insuring the continued well-functioning of this important regional emergency alert network.

Components of the project:

1. Repair, and align the micro-wave relay dish and equipment
2. Replacement of the station vehicle (necessary to reach the downlink site)
3. Associated facility maintenance
4. Station emergency plan update & preparedness

Cost (of project Components):

1.	Micro-wave relay	\$ 4,500.00
2.	Station vehicle	\$33,000.00
3.	Associated facility maintenance	\$22,500.00
4.	Emergency plan update & prepare	<u>\$ 8,000.00</u>
	TOTAL	\$68,000.00