

Agency: Commerce, Community and Economic Development**Grants to Named Recipients (AS 37.05.316)****Grant Recipient: North Star Volunteer Fire Department****Federal Tax ID: 51-0191463****Project Title:****Project Type: Remodel, Reconstruction and Upgrades**

North Star Volunteer Fire Department - Fire Station 31 Upgrade

State Funding Requested: \$2,500,000**House District: Fairbanks Areawide (1-5)**

One-Time Need

Brief Project Description:

Expand dormitory and training room space, asbestos removal, update energy efficiencies and upgrade electrical system.

Funding Plan:

Total Project Cost: \$2,500,000

Funding Already Secured: (\$0)

FY2015 State Funding Request: (\$2,500,000)

Project Deficit: \$0

Funding Details:

FY 15 Capital Request \$2,500,000

Detailed Project Description and Justification:

Construct a twelve room dormitory addition for on-duty staff, construct a classroom addition, complete energy efficiency upgrades, remove hazardous materials including asbestos and lead from building,, and upgrade electrical system to comply with building codes.

Project Timeline:

July 1, 2014 Funding available

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

North Star volunteer Fire Department

Grant Recipient Contact Information:

Name: Jeff Tucker
 Title: NSVFD Fire Chief
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 North Pole, Alaska 99705
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Has this project been through a public review process at the local level and is it a community priority? Yes No

2014

Station 31 Upgrade Project



**NORTH STAR VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT
STATION 31**

Jeff Tucker, Fire Chief

North Star Volunteer Fire Department

North Star Fire Station #31 Upgrade Project

The Fairbanks North Star Borough is requesting \$2,500,000 dollars of state grant funding on behalf of the North Star Fire Service Area. The FNSB intends to use the funding to complete the following projects at North Star Station #31.

This station, the busiest of five North Star stations, is in dire need of additional dormitory and training room space, energy efficiency updates, and electrical system upgrades.

Specifically, the FNSB plans to complete the following projects at Station #31 with the requested funding:

- Construct a twelve room dormitory addition for on-duty staff.
- Construct a classroom addition to the current station large enough to accommodate 100-125 students.
- Complete energy efficiency upgrades to include door replacements, additional insulation, and replacement of lighting with energy efficient fixtures.
- Upgrade major building systems to bring them into compliance with applicable codes.
- Remove hazardous materials including asbestos and lead from the building.

North Star Fire Station #31 is the operational and administrative hub for the North Star Volunteer Fire Department. Personnel staffing this station, the busiest in the North Star Fire Service Area, respond to nearly 1200 emergency calls for service. Two fire engines and a variety of fire and emergency medical support vehicles operate from this station. The North Star Fire Service Area encompasses 106 square miles and is the largest fire service area in the Fairbanks North Star Borough. The fire service area has a population of over 25,000 year-round residents.

The fire station, which includes a dormitory, kitchen, mechanics bay, and training room, was constructed by fire department volunteers starting with the original section of the station constructed in 1976. As the fire service area has grown so have the needs of the North Star Volunteer Fire Department so over many years, North Star volunteers have piecemealed additions onto the structure, and modified the interior of the original two bay section of the station as time and budget permitted. The current Fire Chief's office was once the duty staff bunk room and kitchen; a second story was added to the station to accommodate storage, offices, a day room/kitchen and a dormitory.

Dormitory -- The station is also home to North Star VFD's twenty-four hour firefighting staff. In addition to the paid staff, the department has resident firefighters, student scholarship firefighters, and volunteer firefighters who may work an overnight shift. Station #31 has a single coed dormitory located on the second floor of the building that can house up to 9 firefighters. This is an open room, 36' x 11' (396 ft²) which has a single bed for the company officer and 4 bunk beds for the other staff.

The dormitory is inadequate for the following reasons:

- The dormitory does not meet the ADA requirements for public buildings.
- Volunteers who need to make their minimum staffing hours to remain active with the department will spend the night at Station #31. There are frequently not enough beds to house all of the firefighters wanting to spend the evening.



- Increasing call volume makes the need to have staff available at the station more important.
- Increasing frequency of multiple calls occurring at the same time.
- Providing accommodations that are suitable is critical for the ability of the department to attract and retain volunteer staff.

The department needs to be able to continue to respond to the increased calls for service and to be able to do this it needs to house an adequate number of fire and EMS responders in our stations. The fire department also needs to provide staff with housing that meet current codes and privacy requirements.

The requested funding will allow the Borough to add a twelve room dormitory addition on to the existing fire station.



Figure 1. Station #31 Dormitory

Training Classroom -- Station #31 houses the only training classroom available to the fire department. Currently that room will seat 40 individuals for educational seating. Attendance at North Star Fire Department training nights regularly exceeds that number of participants and the department desperately requires additional space.

- The Badger Road Community benefits from the training classroom space. The classroom is used by a variety of community organizations including:
 - Boy Scout Troop 42
 - Boy Scout Explorer Post 300
 - Cub Scouts
 - Girls Scouts
 - Road Service Area Meetings
 - Polling station for both State/Local and National elections
 - Public Health Immunization Clinics
 - State Representatives and Senator Constituents meetings
 - Commission Meetings
 - College courses
 - Other outside training including First Aid, CPR, and Baby Sitting



Station #31 is designated as the evacuation point for Badger Road Elementary School. Twice a year, the North Star VFD conducts a drill in which the whole school (students, teachers, and staff) is evacuated to Station #31.

The requested funding will allow the Borough to construct a training classroom large enough to accommodate up to 125 students.



Figure 2. Station #31 Training Classroom

Building Systems Upgrades – The building systems were installed over thirty years ago using locally available materials that were readily available and cost-effective for volunteers. During the past several years, major issues have begun to arise with these systems that are now causing maintenance headaches for the fire department:

Electrical -- The wiring in conduit has degraded to the point that the insulation on the wire is cracking which may cause serious electrical system failures. The age of electrical system has shown issues in that several light switches and outlets have needed to be replaced due failures. When replaced there was found evidence in two where heat from arcing has burnt the inside of the box which pose the risk for potential fire and electrocution hazards.

Plumbing -- Sewer and Drainage system for the whole building is constructed out of ageing cast iron pipe. A recent pipe failure in a second floor bathroom caused severe water damage to the first floor room below.

HVAC --. The second floor has a poorly designed heating and ventilation system which does not provide sufficient and fresh air exchange. The second floor offices have a very poorly constructed partition wall between the offices and apparatus bays which allows vehicle exhaust to infiltrate these rooms.

Energy Upgrades – The lighting fixtures are the original fixtures installed when the building was constructed. These lights are costly to operate and repair. Several ballast failures have occurred and many fixtures are not functional.

Hazardous Materials – The Borough has identified the presence of Asbestos Containing Materials (ACMs) in the floor tiles and Poly Chlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs) in the light fixture ballasts. These materials would be removed as part of the overall project.

The requested funding will allow the Borough to upgrade these building systems.

