

Emergency Medical Services Ambulances and Equipment **FY2004 Request: \$425,000**
Statewide – Match for Code Blue Project **Reference No: 33797**

AP/AL: Appropriation **Project Type:** Equipment
Category: Health/Human Services
Location: Statewide **Contact:** Larry Streuber
House District: Statewide (HD 1-40) **Contact Phone:** (907)465-1870
Estimated Project Dates: 07/01/2003 - 06/30/2008

Brief Summary and Statement of Need:

This request will provide funding to match federal dollars and other funding to purchase ambulances and other emergency medical equipment needed in rural Alaskan communities.

Funding:	FY2004	FY2005	FY2006	FY2007	FY2008	FY2009	Total
G/F Match	\$425,000	\$533,400	\$533,400	\$533,400	\$533,400	\$533,400	\$3,092,000
Total:	\$425,000	\$533,400	\$533,400	\$533,400	\$533,400	\$533,400	\$3,092,000

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State Match Required	<input type="checkbox"/> One-Time Project	<input type="checkbox"/> Phased - new	<input type="checkbox"/> Phased - underway	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> On-Going
25% = 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:

CH61/SLA01/Pgs19 and 119/Lns20 and 9 – \$200.0 GF/Match
 CH1/SSSLA02/P40/L18 - \$425.0 GF/Match

Project Description/Justification:

To provide effective life-saving services, EMS ambulance and first responder personnel need adequate, reliable emergency medical equipment and ambulance vehicles. The Department of Health and Social Services, in cooperation with regional EMS programs throughout the state, has documented a critical need for new EMS equipment and ambulances, particularly in rural communities. Many old ambulances and EMS equipment were purchased with federal grants in the late 1970s and early 1980s. These vehicles and equipment must be replaced to ensure the continued viability of a statewide, comprehensive, life-saving EMS system. Most of the communities with old, failing equipment are staffed with volunteer EMTs who do not have access to the funding necessary to purchase new ambulances and equipment.

In 2001, critical equipment needs identified in the Code Blue Project totaled over 8 million dollars. Through a collaborative effort of various funding agencies such as the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), the Rasmussen Foundation and the Denali Commission, approximately \$6.5 million of new equipment is being purchased. Key to this success was the local match pledged by communities and the considered use of the \$533.0 made available for Code Blue matching funds through Chapter 61, SLA 2001. Currently, the Code Blue database contains approximately \$2.2 million in unfunded critical EMS equipment needs. More requests are expected to be received and prioritized later this year.

The USDA's Rural Development Office has a community grant program that can fund up to 75% of the cost of an ambulance and medical equipment for communities that meet certain eligibility criteria. The remaining 25% must be provided as matching funds. Funds received through this appropriation would be used to match funds from the USDA and other sources, and would help purchase equipment for communities which are ineligible for other funding but have critical equipment needs.

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In FY 2004 through FY 2008, the continuing appropriations would help keep up with ongoing needs for EMS equipment and ambulances for rural, volunteer EMS ambulance and first responder squads throughout the state, particularly those which are ineligible for funding from other sources such as the USDA.

The federal USDA Rural Development Office community grant program is an on-going program that Alaska could presumably continue to access on an annual basis to continue to support replacement of outdated EMS equipment and ambulances. We anticipate a continuing annual need of approximately \$2.2 million for replacement and upgrade of EMS equipment and ambulances for communities across Alaska.