

Law Enforcement Equipment Replacement**FY2005 Request: \$600,000**
Reference No: 37774**AP/AL:** Appropriation
Category: Public Protection
Location: Statewide**Project Type:** Equipment**Contact:** Dan Spencer, Director, Administrative Services**House District:** Statewide (HD 1-40)**Contact Phone:** (907)465-5488**Estimated Project Dates:** 07/01/2004 - 06/30/2005**Brief Summary and Statement of Need:**

Purchase of new and replacement law enforcement equipment used by the Alaska State Troopers. The Division of Alaska State Troopers which now includes the Alaska Bureau of Wildlife Enforcement, rely upon capital improvement project funding for these types of equipment purchases for day-to-day operations.

Funding:	FY2005	FY2006	FY2007	FY2008	FY2009	FY2010	Total
Gen Fund	\$600,000	\$1,650,000	\$1,650,000	\$1,650,000	\$1,650,000	\$1,650,000	\$8,850,000
Total:	\$600,000	\$1,650,000	\$1,650,000	\$1,650,000	\$1,650,000	\$1,650,000	\$8,850,000

<input 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
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	
Totals:	0	0

Additional Information / Prior Funding History:

\$600,000 Chapter 82, SLA2003, page 32, line 32 (AST) & \$400,000 Chapter 82, SLA2003, page 33, line 17 (FWP)

\$400,000 Chapter 1, SSSLA2002, page 45, line 24 (AST) & \$205,000 Chapter 1, SSSLA2003, page 45, line 10 (FWP)

\$250,000 Chapter 61, SLA2001, page 23, line 13 (AST) & \$205,000 Chapter 61, SLA2001, page 23, line 15 (FWP)

\$350,000 Chapter 135, SLA2000, page 18, line 24 (AST) & \$205,300 Chapter 125, SLA2000, page 18, line 21 (FWP)

\$175,000 Chapter 2, SLA1999 (AST) & \$368,000 Chapter 2, SLA1999 (FWP)

Project Description/Justification:

This project funds the replacement of law enforcement equipment for the Division of Alaska State Troopers. This request is a combined capital request formerly requested by the Divisions of Alaska State Troopers and Fish and Wildlife Protection. The Department of Public Safety has reorganized to refocus on the department's core missions and has streamlined the organization to make more effective and efficient use of resources. As part of that reorganization, Fish and Wildlife Protection activities are now budgeted in the Alaska Bureau of Wildlife Enforcement component within the Alaska State Troopers.

Law Enforcement Equipment Replacement

FY2005 Request: \$600,000
Reference No: 37774

Annual funding is needed to provide the primary law enforcement organization in the state with basic law enforcement equipment necessary for state troopers to provide service to the public. Equipment regularly is in need of replacement because of constant use and normal wear and tear.

This project will provide funding for the following types of equipment, however other types of equipment may be purchased if it is deemed more mission critical than these items at the time of purchase.

Replacement field radios: \$148,000

Both handheld portable radios and vehicle mounted mobile radios are subjected to daily use in often-harsh environments. The division typically needs to replace 22 portable and 15 mobile radios per year because of damage or failure of older equipment.

Off-road transportation equipment: \$105,000

Snow-machines, four-wheelers, and patrol skiffs are used statewide by troopers involved in criminal and fish and wildlife law enforcement and search and rescue operations. This request continues a five-year replacement cycle by allowing the division to purchase approximately eight snow-machines or four-wheelers, with trailers, and replace old, worn out, 2-stroke outboard motors (130-225 hp) on patrol skiffs.

Old equipment requires extra maintenance effort by troopers who should be out devoting their time to patrol-related law enforcement activities. Undependable equipment presents a safety hazard during patrols, and is always a consideration during the selection of equipment in rapid response situations like search and rescue activities.

Special Emergency Reaction Team (SERT) equipment: \$39,300

Recognizing the potential in law enforcement for the unpredictable occurrence of high-risk and critical incidents, the Department of Public Safety has established the Special Emergency Reaction Team (SERT). SERT is designed as a unit capable of responding to situations involving a higher-than-normal degree of danger to the public or responding officers, and to provide safe, tactical, response and resolution. Current SERT equipment is non-standard and technologically dated. Non-standard equipment presents training obstacles because of differing equipment types. Technology becomes a significant issue with regard to counter-surveillance. Equipment readily available to the public includes night vision and listening devices, and hand held Forward Looking InfraRed (FLIR) devices. To remain effective, DPS personnel must have equipment that surpasses the capacity of the opposition. This project will purchase night vision goggles, nomex gloves, Kevlar helmets, face shields for helmets, and foul weather gear for outdoor operations.

Radar units: \$190,000

The majority of radar units currently in state trooper vehicles were purchased in 1996 and 1997. Radar units have a useful life expectancy of 5-years, after which the units become increasingly ineffective due to higher repair costs and degraded effective signal range. This project will fund the purchase of 50 in-vehicle radar units, including units for the Alaska Bureau of Wildlife Enforcement troopers on the highway system.

The department will also purchase 10 handheld laser radar units to be used in road system posts statewide. These Light Detection and Ranging (LIDAR) radar units measure vehicle speed and distance of both stationary and moving vehicles. The division is also developing ways to use the LIDAR units for accident scene diagrams.

Less-lethal ammunitions and weapons: \$58,700

In an effort to provide state troopers with alternatives to the use of deadly force, the division proposes to issue 12-gauge, launched, "bean bag"-type ammunitions to the troopers in the field. Less-lethal ammunitions provide an additional step in the use of force continuum, and can halt incidents before they elevate to the level of deadly force.

Taser weapons will continue the division's effort to institute less lethal force options when state troopers are confronted with violent offenders. The tasers are designed to incapacitate offenders and lessen the risk of serious injuries to troopers and offenders. This project will purchase 50 tasers.

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FY2005 Request: \$600,000
Reference No: 37774

Handheld infra-red equipment: \$24,000

Handheld heat sensing devices, similar to the equipment used by fire department personnel to "see" through smoke, will assist state troopers in locating persons during search and rescue operations and to detect criminals attempting to hide from arresting officers. This project will fund purchase of two devices.

Tactical dive unit equipment: \$25,000

The tactical dive unit is in need of replacement equipment to include dive suits, an underwater camera, and miscellaneous safety equipment to replace items worn out or damaged during extended use.

AR-15 patrol rifles: \$10,000

The division has adopted the Colt AR-15 as its standard patrol rifle. The division has already procured a number of these rifles, and this project will provide funding to insure each commissioned trooper is issued one. These rifles will allow the department to train recruits attending the academy and then issue the rifles upon graduation.

Other cost information

Cost estimates are based upon contracts with local vendors and existing awards.

No operating cost increases are anticipated to result from the acquisition of these predominately replacement items. Conversely, if this equipment is not obtained, repair and maintenance costs will escalate.

Alternatives considered

Continue to use the current equipment that is on-hand. This will result in less effective use of the limited manpower that is available and may result in unsafe situations for state troopers and the public. When communication and other equipment fails, criminal cases are lost, or response to calls for assistance from the public are delayed.

Impact of not funding equipment replacement

This is an annual capital improvement project to fund the purchase of equipment needed to effectively perform the Alaska State Trooper's law enforcement function. Without annual equipment replacement, the goal of protecting life and property of the public through an effective and efficient law enforcement organization can not be carried out. In effective law enforcement, it is crucial to have operational equipment readily available for the trooper's use. If not, the life of the trooper, or the citizens and their property that he or she is sworn to protect, may be in jeopardy. No alternative funding exists for this project.