

Rural Law Enforcement Training and Equipment**FY2005 Request: \$2,000,000****Reference No: 38479****AP/AL:** Appropriation
Category: Public Protection
Location: Statewide**Project Type:** Health and Safety**Contact:** Dan Spencer, Director, Administrative Services**House District:** Statewide (HD 1-40)**Contact Phone:** (907)465-5488**Estimated Project Dates:** 07/01/2004 - 09/30/2006**Brief Summary and Statement of Need:**

The Department of Justice, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services, is expected to award the Department of Public Safety \$2,000,000 to train law enforcement personnel in rural locations to increase their ability to deal with crisis situations and to purchase equipment for better responses to emergencies.

Funding:	FY2005	FY2006	FY2007	FY2008	FY2009	FY2010	Total
Fed Rcpts	\$2,000,000						\$2,000,000
Total:	\$2,000,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,000,000

<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:	115,336	1
Ongoing Operating:	0	0
One-Time Startup:	0	
Totals:	115,336	1

Additional Information / Prior Funding History:

Chapter 2, FSSLA 1999, page 52, line 5 - \$650,000
 Chapter 61, SLA 2001, page 23, line 30 - \$1,800,000
 Chapter 1, SSSLA 2002, page 45, line 22 - \$600,000
 Chapter 82, SLA 2003, page 33, line 25 - \$1,500,000

Project Description/Justification:

The U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services, is expected to award the Department of Public Safety \$2,000,000 to train law enforcement personnel in rural areas of the state to increase their ability to deal with crisis situations and to purchase equipment for better responses to emergencies. This project is based upon the training and equipment program, funded by federal grants, that has been in place since FY2000. These grants provided basic and advanced training and equipment to many rural law enforcement officers in Western Alaska.

Law enforcement throughout much of the rural areas in Alaska is the responsibility of the Alaska State Troopers. From hub communities, state troopers respond immediately to life threatening emergencies, to felonies as quickly as possible, and to misdemeanors as soon as practical. The process is hampered by delayed notification, long distances, uncertainties of weather and transportation, and limited manpower. Due to the limited number of available state troopers, regional public safety officers, or other law enforcement personnel, many villages in rural Alaska hire Village Police Officers (VPOs) or Tribal Police Officers (TPOs) to provide needed emergency response services. These VPOs and TPOs often receive only minimal salaries, training, and equipment due to the lack of a local tax base to support them.

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This \$2,000,000 grant will be spread over two years and will provide all of the associated costs of continuing in-service training of various rural law enforcement officers. The project will involve various modules of training for rural law enforcement officers, including basic law enforcement response, search and rescue, domestic violence, basic and advanced fire fighting, and non-lethal weapons, statement analysis, Reid interviewing techniques, methods of instruction, first aid and re-certifications to enhance rural law enforcement services.

The training will be spread over two years due to limited availability of instructors and teaching facilities, the logistics of obtaining equipment and supplies, and to reduce the negative impact on small rural communities when their local law enforcement officers are away attending training. The training will be held in rural hubs, transporting personnel from the outlying villages into a central point for classroom training.

The emphasis will be placed on pulling from the pool of previously trained officers to further educate them to become certified instructors in basic police topics, defense tactics, first aid, and less lethal options. Developing a cadre of rural instructors will benefit rural areas by allowing training to be provided to new officers in a timely manner.

Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.) will also be offered to rural officers to become D.A.R.E. training officers. This will increase the number of D.A.R.E. officers in the field with the ability to teach drug and violence prevention. The goal of this program is to interrupt the cycle of drug abuse and violence in rural communities.

In addition to the training, grant funds will be used to purchase new and replacement equipment needed in rural areas to enhance response to emergency situations. This includes emergency locator beacons, radios, computers, four-wheelers, boats and motors, snow-machines, and other law enforcement equipment.

This grant includes two years funding for the Alaska State Troopers' rural law enforcement training coordinator position.

Impact of Not Receiving This Request

If this project is not approved, the state will lose \$2,000,000 in federal funding. Currently there are over two hundred remote communities in Alaska. The training and equipment provided by this grant will improve law enforcement in rural Alaska and will benefit rural residents and those visiting various remote areas of the state.