

Statewide Interoperable Alert and Warning System Upgrades

FY2007 Request: \$2,270,000
Reference No: 40061

AP/AL: Appropriation **Project Type:** Health and Safety
Category: Public Protection
Location: Statewide **Contact:** John Cramer
House District: Statewide (HD 1-40) **Contact Phone:** (907)465-4602
Estimated Project Dates: 07/01/2006 - 06/30/2011

Brief Summary and Statement of Need:

This will expand the current Emergency Alert System (EAS) to rural communities using a concept titled Mini Radio Service (MRS), modernize the National Alert and Warning System (NaWaS) to 29 statewide locations and provide basic 911 service to all wired phones in the state. This comprehensive, statewide network integration system will reduce costs, improve service and comply with federal mandates. Life safety enhancement end results, ability to protect our citizens and infrastructure, will continue to improve within our performance management framework.

Funding:	FY2007	FY2008	FY2009	FY2010	FY2011	FY2012	Total
Fed Rcpts	\$2,070,000	\$3,000,000	\$1,665,000	\$1,665,000			\$8,400,000
Gen Fund	\$200,000	\$750,000	\$800,000	\$800,000			\$2,550,000
Total:	\$2,270,000	\$3,750,000	\$2,465,000	\$2,465,000	\$0	\$0	\$10,950,000

<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:	300	3
One-Time Startup:	0	
Totals:	300	3

Additional Information / Prior Funding History:

CH 3 FSSLA 05 - \$2,200,000

Project Description/Justification:

This project merges three statewide emergency/alert and warning communications systems into a single, operationally integrated concept. This integrated system concept will expand the current Emergency Alert System (EAS) to rural communities using a concept titled Mini Radio Service (MRS), modernize the National Alert and Warning System (NaWaS) to 29 statewide locations and provide basic three digit 911 service to all wired phones in the state. This comprehensive, statewide network integration system will reduce costs, improve service and comply with federal mandates.

For purposes of this CIP request, the concept is described in three sections:

Mini Radio System (MRS):

The federal government requires states to be able to specifically and individually target every community in their respective state with specific information about pending emergencies. Most states are able to meet this requirement through the use of the commercial radio, television and cable providers using the EAS. However, the design of the national EAS by the FCC and FEMA in 1994 failed to account for rural areas of Alaska where communities do not have access to traditional regulated FCC broadcast radio and television services. Since the concept could not be deployed throughout many rural Alaskan communities, DMVA designed and received FCC approval to test an Alaskan based emergency alerting system in 1998. This system would ensure that all communities receive EAS emergency messages. This concept was successfully demonstrated in Shishmaref in 2000.

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The MRS filled the void of alerting those communities where traditional off-the-air commercial broadcast reception was not available. Under the MRS concept, tsunami prone communities would be the first communities to receive alerting message over the MRS. There are a total of 245 communities throughout the state that may require this type of emergency alerting system.

National Alerting System (NaWaS):

NaWaS is a national alerting system designed in the 1960's that is used by the federal and state governments to alert specific organizations and individuals of a pending emergency. It is funded by the federal government and is designed around the use of standard analog telephones that are operated in a "party line" configuration. Under the system, all parties hear the same message at the same time if they are within hearing distance of the receiver. The system has not been upgraded or modernized by the federal government since it was initiated in 1962.

The purpose of this CIP element is to upgrade the state NaWaS equipment with a more modern system and integrate this alerting system with other existing more robust network architectures. Although the federal government owns the equipment and pays for the leased land lines to support this alerting network, the state received permission in 1997 to upgrade this 1960 vintage equipment to a more robust system. Under this upgrade concept the State would modernize the naming convention used at the community level (standard IP addresses) and replace some of the old analog phones with a Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) solution voice concepts.

Statewide Basic 911:

Many rural communities do not have basic 911 (B911) services which were mandated by the federal government in 2001. The statewide regulated wire line telecommunications providers want to comply with this requirement; however, a statewide implementation plan has not been available. Through a contractor, DMVA is developing a statewide strategic plan to implement this basic service over all commercially regulated wired phone instruments in the State.

The purpose of this CIP element is to fund the initial operational requirements for basic 911 services for all wired telephones in the State. This will be the first step to support an overall implementation plan for a phased-in approach for a statewide E911 system. This implementation initiative will allow the State to leverage additional federal funding in future years to develop a statewide traditional E-911 architecture.

This project is supported by State agencies who deal in health care, fire suppression, emergency response and policing actions. The regulated telecommunications industry will endorse the concept as they are currently not in compliance with the FCC federal 911 mandates. This project will also be endorsed by all communities who do not currently receive EAS messages or have the outdated NaWaS as it will significantly enhance these communities abilities to respond to all emergency events.