

Emergency Medical Services Ambulances and Equipment **FY2008 Request: \$425,000**
Statewide – Match for Code Blue Project **Reference No: 42837**

AP/AL: Appropriation **Project Type:** Equipment
Category: Health/Human Services
Location: Statewide **Contact:** Janet Clarke
House District: Statewide **Contact Phone:** (907)465-1630
Estimated Project Dates: 07/01/2007 - 06/30/2012

Brief Summary and Statement of Need:

Capital Equipment funds are needed to continue the work of the Code Blue Steering committee. This committee was formed to identify and purchase critical EMS equipment and ambulances for EMS agencies around the state, particularly in rural locations. Through several sources of funding much of the need has been satisfied, but funds are still required to continue the work. This year a total of \$425,000 in capital funds is required to match federal, local and private funds to be allocated for all 7 EMS regional offices for such needs as ambulances, heart monitors, training equipment, and communications equipment. One dollar in state general funds leverages more than 4 additional dollars in other funds.

Funding:	FY2008	FY2009	FY2010	FY2011	FY2012	FY2013	Total
G/F Match	\$425,000	\$425,000	\$425,000	\$425,000	\$425,000	\$425,000	\$2,550,000
Total:	\$425,000	\$425,000	\$425,000	\$425,000	\$425,000	\$425,000	\$2,550,000

<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	0
Totals:	0	0

Additional Information / Prior Funding History:

CH82/SLA06/P73/L5 \$425.0 GF/Match
 CH3/SLA05/P56/L22 - \$425.0 GF/Match CH159/SLA04/P26/L24 - \$325.0 ASLC Dividends
 CH82/SLA03/P28/L21 - \$425.0 GF/Match CH1/SSSLA02/P40/L18 - \$425.0 GF/Match
 CH61/SLA01/Pgs19 and 119/Lns20 and 9 - \$533.0GF/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 2006, critical equipment needs identified in the Code Blue Database total over 5 million dollars. Through a collaborative effort of various funding agencies such as the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), the Rasmuson Foundation, and the Denali Commission, approximately 13.9 million dollars of new equipment has been purchased so far. Key to this success is the local match pledged by communities, leveraging of other funding sources, and the considered use of the capital funds made available annually for Code Blue matching funds. Requests continue to come in each year to replace broken and outdated items ensuring the system remains healthy.

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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 will be used to match funds from the USDA and other sources, and will help purchase equipment for communities which are ineligible for other funding but have critical equipment needs.

Continuing capital appropriations each year would help keep up with on-going 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.

Department's Mission: *To promote and protect the health and well being of Alaskans.* This project contributes to the Department's mission by providing EMS equipment throughout Alaska that is essential to maintaining the health and well-being of Alaskans.

The end result to which this project contributes is "Healthy people in healthy communities."