

**Agency: Commerce, Community and Economic Development**

**Grants to Named Recipients (AS 37.05.316)**

**Grant Recipient: North Star Volunteer Fire Department**

**Federal Tax ID: 51-0191463**

**Project Title:**

**Project Type: Equipment and Materials**

# North Star Volunteer Fire Department, Inc. - Fire Engine

**State Funding Requested: \$245,000**  
One-Time Need

**House District: 7 / D**

**Brief Project Description:**

Replace a 25-year old fire engine with a fire engine that meets current national fire apparatus standards and provides for the safety of the firefighters

**Funding Plan:**

**Total Cost of Project: \$490,000**

	<u>Funding Secured</u>		<u>Other Pending Requests</u>		<u>Anticipated Future Need</u>	
	<i>Amount</i>	<i>FY</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>FY</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>FY</i>
Other Funds	\$150,000	FY10			\$95,000	
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$150,000</b>				<b>\$95,000</b>	

*Explanation of Other Funds:*

*This capital request asks for 50% of the total cost of the fire truck. The balance of the purchase price will be from the Fire Service Area Fund Balance or the FNSB Purchase/Lease Plan.*

**Detailed Project Description and Justification:**

This project will replace North Star Volunteer Fire Department Engine 38. This engine was originally owned by the Moose Creek Volunteer Fire Department and was acquired by North Star when the Moose Creek department folded and merged with North Star VFD in 1993.

The proposal is to replace Eng. 38 with a (similar) commercial cab type fire engine, with a four door cab to safely transport firefighters and to service the recently annexed Chena Hot Springs Road area. A 6-wheel-drive system is recommended for this area, to better negotiate steep grades, unimproved roads and driveways. The drive train of the replacement fire engine will also be equipped with positive driving rear axles and automatic tire chains. This has proven to be an effective combination on NSVFD's more recent fire apparatus.

This engine is over 25 years old, manufactured in 1985 by FMC. The fire engine is now obsolete and repairs are difficult and costly to perform and parts are very difficult to obtain. The National Fire Protection Association standard on Fire Apparatus, NFPA 1901 annex D, strongly recommends fire apparatus manufactured before 1994 be replaced due to safety and performance concerns.

The North Star Volunteer Fire Department Board of Directors and the North Star Fire Service Area Commission has identified this apparatus as its number one priority for replacement in the North Star Volunteer Fire Department's Strategic Plan and Capital Improvement Program.

*For use by Co-chair Staff Only:*

**\$245,000  
Approved**

The primary response area for this fire engine will be the recently annexed areas located in the hills around the Chena Hot Springs Road. This area has unique terrain not found in the other 95 square miles of the North Star Fire Service Area. The majority of our service area is flat land and our current fleet is designed to respond to that type of terrain. The newly annexed area is very hilly with steep grades, narrow unimproved roads and driveways. Further fire service area expansion in this area is anticipated and the need for this apparatus is critical to provide quick, safe response to the residents in the area.

**Project Timeline:**

Design work is nearly complete and ready to be sent out to bid once funding is acquired. Once the bids are received and a bid awarded construction time is estimated to be between 10 - 12 months.

**Entity Responsible for the Ongoing Operation and Maintenance of this Project:**

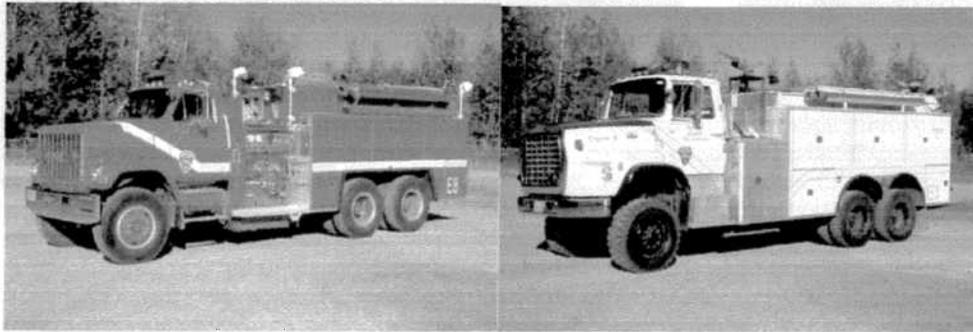
North Star Volunteer Fire Department

**Grant Recipient Contact Information:**

Name: Jeff Tucker  
Address: 2358 Bradway road  
North Pole, AK 99705  
Phone Number: (907)488-3400  
Email: jtucker@northstarfire.org

Has this project been through a public review process at the local level and is it a community priority?  Yes  No

# **NORTH STAR Volunteer Fire Department**



## **Apparatus Replacement Project**

# NORTH STAR

## Volunteer Fire Department

2358 Bradway Road  
North Pole, Alaska 99705  
Phone: (907) 488-3400 • Fax: (907) 488-6118  
[www.northstarfire.org](http://www.northstarfire.org)

**Jeff Tucker, Fire Chief**

To Whom It May Concern:

In 2006 the North Star Volunteer Fire Department, for the first time in its history, developed a Strategic Plan for the department. This process was driven in part by several pressing challenges that were being faced by the department that we felt we needed to have a formal plan to address. Foremost was an upcoming Insurance Service Office (ISO) evaluation, scheduled for 2007, of the fire department to determine our Public Protection Classification (PPC) which is used by insurance companies to determine the rates they charge their customers.

The goals and objectives that were identified during the Strategic Planning process sought to maintain the quality of the service that the North Star Volunteer Fire Department provides to the residents of the North Star Fire Service Area. One particularly critical goal that was identified was "Provide and maintain quality equipment and facilities". Two of the objectives to address this goal are the development of a capital replacement program and to seek funding alternatives to replace our aging fire apparatus fleet.

The North Star Volunteer Fire Department currently operates a fleet of nine fire apparatus. Three are stationed at our main station, Station 1 located on Bradway Road, and there are two each at our remaining stations, Station 3 located on Hurst Road, Station 4 located on Dennis Road and Station 5 in Moose Creek.

The average age of our fire apparatus fleet is currently over 18 years old with the oldest, Engine 310, being almost 30 years old. Six of the remaining engines were built from 1982-1985. These engines no longer meet the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standards for fire apparatus which strongly recommends that fire apparatus manufactured prior to 1994 be replaced do to vast improvements in safety equipment (NFPA 1901 Annex D).

During our ISO evaluation we were able to lower our PPC from an 8B to a 4 an almost unheard of drop and a tremendous potential saving on insurance costs for all of the residents and businesses in our service area. One of the biggest factors in this is our

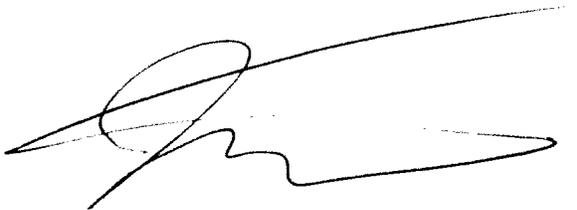
department's ability to move water and provide the needed fire flow to meet the standards set forth by ISO. However with our ageing fleet we have the immediate and long term need to replace those apparatus that no longer meet standards and have become increasingly costly to operate.

For the first time in the history of the North Star Volunteer Fire Department we have been able to set aside money over the last two budget years to begin to replace these trucks. Currently we have set aside \$300,000 to begin this process.

Our project is to replace Engine 310 and Engine 38. Our current estimate for replacement costs are \$490,000 for an all-wheel-drive and \$443,000 for a non-all-wheel-drive. The all-wheel-drive engine will be assigned to Station One with the intent to respond it to our newly annexed service area on the Chena Hot Springs Road and the non-all-wheel-drive will be assigned as the first out engine from our Moose Creek Station serving the area of Moose Creek and Eielson Farm Road.

We are looking for funding assistance for the balance of the funds that will the North Star Volunteer Fire Department to continue to provide the highest level of Fire and Emergency Services to the residents and visitors to the North Star Fire Service Area.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jeff Tucker', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jeff Tucker, Fire Chief



### ENGINE 38

1. 24 years old, manuf. in 1985 by FMC on GMC truck chassis
2. Over 1200 hours total on the chassis
3. Originally owned by the Moose Creek VFD, picked up by NSVFD in 1993 when MCVFD dissolved.
  - a. Originally assigned as second out engine at NSVFD Sta. 5 (Moose Creek / Eielson Farm Road communities)
  - b. Currently assigned as Reserve Engine. Also assigned to Wildland fires as needed.
4. Major areas of maintenance and repairs: Fire Pump, Front end suspension, plumbing for pump. Due to improperly designed loading of major systems, this engine is difficult to safely operate under winter driving conditions – the front end slides in the turns.
  - a. Direct repair costs from 2001 to date are \$11,483. Cost Per Hour: \$39.086
    - i. Downtime for shop work, from 1-1-03 to 1-1-08: 4 weeks
  - b. Comparable costs / hour for NSVFD Eng. 31 (2003 model) and Eng. 32 (2005 model): \$22.093 per hour and \$29.583 per hour (respectively).

Eng. 38 has provided very good service to this community for over 24 years. At this time it is beyond its serviceable / productive life. It is obsolete and repairs and parts are very difficult to perform and obtain. National Fire Protection Association standards strongly recommend fire apparatus manuf. before 1994 be replaced (NFPA 1901 Annex D).

Proposal is to replace Eng. 38 with a (similar) commercial cab type fire engine, with a four door cab to safely transport firefighters and to service the recently annexed Chena Hot Springs Road area. A 6-wheel-drive system is recommended for this area, to better negotiate steep grades, unimproved roads and driveways. The drive train of the replacement fire engine will also be equipped with positive driving rear axles and automatic tire chains. This has proven to be an effective combination on NSVFD's more recent fire apparatus.



## **North Pole Fire Department**

**125 Snowman Lane - North Pole, Alaska 99705**

**Phone: 907.488.2232 Fax: 907.488.3747**

December, 10, 2008

To Whom It May Concern:

We are writing in support of the request by North Star Volunteer Fire Department to secure funding for two new fire engines to replace two older fire engines that no longer meet NFPA standards. North Pole Fire Department and North Star Volunteer Fire Department maintain a working relationship through an automatic aid agreement that brings fire apparatus and personnel to emergencies within our response area. North Star also is a part of an area wide mutual aid agreement that provides emergency response, fire apparatus and personnel to other departments within the Fairbanks North Star Borough. Through the aid agreements the citizens of the North Pole Community depend on North Star Fire Department to respond quickly and with modern and dependable fire apparatus to protect the citizens in our community.

We value our relationship with the North Star Volunteer Fire Department and appreciate the service they provide the community. We fully support their efforts to secure funding for new fire trucks. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Buddy Lane  
Fire Chief