

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

**Grants to Municipalities (AS 37.05.315)**

**Grant Recipient: Matanuska-Susitna Borough**

**Project Title:**

**Project Type: Equipment and Materials**

# Houston - Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus Purchase

**State Funding Requested: \$100,000**  
One-Time Need

**House District: Mat-Su Areawide (13-16)**

**Brief Project Description:**

Funds requested to purchase and equip 20 Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBAs)

**Funding Plan:**

**Total Cost of Project: \$170,000**

	<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>
Local Funds	\$30,000	2009				
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$30,000</b>					

**Detailed Project Description and Justification:**

The current SCBAs are woefully inadequate and utilize outdated technology that does not permit safe operations with mutual aid agencies who depend on Houston's services for mutually efficient and safe fire operations. Having gear that is not compatible poses a threat to both agencies' crews, the personnel that are sent into the interior to rescue each other, and the general safety of the fire victims.

The SCBAs requested are a basic air tank attached to a backpack-style carrier. High pressure hoses supply the air to a face mask worn by the firefighters. A low air indicator bell will sound behind the firefighter when the air supply is below four minutes. Steel air tanks provide the firefighter with 16-19 minutes of air and the newer composite tank supply the same amount of air but reduce the overall weight by 45 to 50 percent. Each tank is equipped with PASS alarms for firefighter emergencies, fitted with a transponder to notify command of approximate location of the firefighter in trouble. When these instances occur, a rescuer will enter the building and locate the firefighter in trouble and attach the downed firefighter's air supply to his own fresh supply, enabling both enough air to exit the building together safely.

Mutual aid agreements and automatic aid agreements exist with neighboring services of Wasilla, Meadow Lakes, Big Lake, Willow, Talkeetna, and Caswell. All of these communities utilize Mat-Su services.

**Project Timeline:**

This project will be complete within six months, pending funding.

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

City of Houston

*For use by Co-chair Staff Only:*

\$100,000  
Approved

5:42 PM 5/4/2010

**Grant Recipient Contact Information:**

Name:	Lisa Stanley
Address:	13878 W. Armstrong Road Houston, AK 99694
Phone Number:	(907)892-6869
Email:	lstanley@houston-ak.gov

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

# TOTAL PROJECT REPORT

Agency: Life, Health, Safety  
Grants to Municipalities [AS.37.05.315]  
Grant Recipient: City of Houston

## Project Title

City Of Houston – Purchase and Equipping New Breathing Equipment

**Legislator Name:** Senator Huggins House District 15-H

**State Funding Requested:** \$ 140,000 District Priority  
One Time Need

## Brief Project Description:

To purchase 20 self-contained breathing apparatus and associated equipment.

## Funding Plan:

<b>Total Cost Of Project:</b>	<b>\$ 140,000</b>	<b>Other Pending Requests</b>	<b>Anticipated Future Need</b>		
	<b>Funding Secured</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>FY</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>FY</b>
Local Funds	00000				
Total	00000				

## Detailed Project Description and Justification:

The current equipment is woefully inadequate and outdated technology that does not permit safe operation with our mutual aid agencies. Our aged resources have been deemed to be in need of immediate replacement, as the current gear does not match the mutual aid's department for safety gear and thus makes it unsafe for operations in fire attack.

## Project Timeline:

Spring 2010-winter2010

## Entity Responsible for the Operation and Maintenance of this Project:

CITY OF HOUSTON

## Grant Recipient Contact Information:

Contact Name: Roger Purcell, City of Houston Mayor  
Address: PO Box 940027, Houston AK 99694  
Phone Number: 907-892-6869  
Email: purcell@houston-ak.gov

Has this project been through a public review process at the local level and is it a community priority YES [XX] NO [ ]



## Office of the Fire Chief

HOUSTON FIRE DEPARTMENT  
P.O. Box 940027  
13878 ARMSTRONG RD  
HOUSTON, AK 99694

CHIEF THOMAS L. HOOD  
PHONE: 907-892-6457  
FAX: 907-892-6458  
FIRE@HOUSTON-AK.GOV

Mr. Mayor and Members of the City Council:

This letter is by request of your body for the list of items we are requesting be added to the Capital Improvement Programs (CIP) list for FY2010. The following capital expenditures are outside the ability of the Houston Fire Department's budget to pay for, and as such we respectfully request that you add these to the CIP list submitted to the State of Alaska this year. All items are in order of importance and need for our department.

1. Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (\$140,000)
  - a. We need 20 new sets of Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) in order to perform our mission of saving lives and property in a safe and efficient manner. New SCBAs can range in cost from \$5,000 - \$10,000, with the SCBAs that we request costing approximately \$7,000 each. 20 of these would therefore cost approximately \$140,000. This specific SCBA would allow us to perform all of our tasks with maximum efficiency and meet the same gear specifications of our mutual aid partners at the Mat-Su Borough. The gear would be MSA® M7 air packs with either 2216 psig or 4500psig bottles.
2. Fire Tender (\$400,000)
  - a. Tanker 9-1-1 has been the workhorse of Houston Fire Department for over a decade due to increasing demands of response to mutual aid fires as well as local emergencies. Sometimes, the tanker is outside the service area assisting a mutual aid agency and another emergency occurs within the city of Houston that must be covered by Engine 9-1-1 and a mutual aid station providing a tender to support the operation. The addition of a new tender would alleviate the overworking of the current Tanker 9-1-1 and allow us to provide assistance to mutual aid stations without decreasing response capabilities within the City of Houston. A fire tender as we would require for continuation of our existing service capabilities would cost in the area of \$400,000 to include stocking the tender with equipment and tools to meet National Fire Protection Agency (NFPA) and Insurance Services Office (ISO) requirements.



3. Fire Engine

- a. With the addition of Station 9-2 and the increasing call for Rapid Intervention Crews (RIC) in the fire service by OSHA, as well as NFPA and ISO, a new Engine is needed to full service of the mission of Houston Fire Department. We request funding in the amount of \$450,000 to purchase a structural fire engine and fully equip it for that same purpose, meet all NFPA and ISO requirements, and provide for sufficient space for future expansion and refitting as necessary. The current Engine 9-1-1 would continue service as the primary engine for Station 9-1 and a RIC engine, which would dramatically increase our safety position in our department and with the mutual aid fire services as well.

4. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

- a. Many firefighters currently are wearing PPE that was purchase in excess of 7 years ago, which is the maximum age mandated by NFPA. Continuing to clothe firefighters in this gear could be dangerous and any failure would not be warranted against by the manufacturer. This PPE, also referred to as turnouts, cost in the area of \$2,000 each. With an objective of a 20-firefighter strong fire department, we need to purchase 20 sets of turnouts of varying sizes with a total cost of approximately \$40,000.

5. Rescue Truck

- a. We request \$350,000 for a medium rescue truck and associated tools. This truck would replace the currently Rescue 9-1, a 1983 Chevy pickup that was configured as a brush truck and placed into service as a rescue truck due to no other available rescue vehicle. As a result, the current Rescue 9-1 is overweighted and well beyond its service life. The purchase of a new rescue truck would permit us to place the current Rescue 9-1 back into service as a brush truck and better protect and serve the residents and commuting traffic of Houston.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Thomas L Hood, Fire Chief