

**Agency: Commerce, Community and Economic Development****Grants to Municipalities (AS 37.05.315)****Grant Recipient: Houston****Project Title:****Project Type: Equipment and Materials**

## Houston - Firefighting & Protective Equipment

**State Funding Requested: \$40,000****House District: 15 / H**

Future Funding May Be Requested

**Brief Project Description:**

Funds requested to purchase replacement Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) turn-out gear for Houston firefighters.

**Funding Plan:****Total Cost of Project: \$40,000***There is no other funding needed***Detailed Project Description and Justification:**

Many of the Houston firefighters are currently wearing turn-out gear that was purchased more than seven years ago, which is the maximum age allowed as mandated by NFPA. Continuing to clothe firefighters in this gear could be extremely dangerous and any failures in the PPE would not be warranted against by the manufacturer. The individual cost of one set of gear is estimated at \$2,000. Full funding will outfit all of Houston's firefighters in this critical moment.

**Project Timeline:**

Pending full funding, all PPEs will be purchased and placed into service within two months.

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

City of Houston

**Grant Recipient Contact Information:**

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 Houston, AK 99694  
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Has this project been through a public review process at the local level and is it a community priority?  Yes  No



## Office of the Fire Chief

HOUSTON FIRE DEPARTMENT  
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CHIEF THOMAS L. HOOD  
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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