

Agency: Commerce, Community and Economic Development**Grants to Unincorporated Communities (AS 37.05.317)****Grant Recipient: Hollis****Project Title:****Project Type:** New Construction and Land Acquisition

Hollis - Emergency Services Facility Construction

State Funding Requested: \$416,550**House District: 1 / A**

One-Time Need

Brief Project Description:

Funding to construct a heated emergency services facility for Hollis and eastern Prince of Wales Island.

Funding Plan:**Total Cost of Project: \$416,550***There is no other funding needed***Detailed Project Description and Justification:**

Project is funding to construct a heated emergency services facility for Hollis and eastern Prince of Wales Island. The Hollis Volunteer Fire Department needs a new fire station and heated emergency services facility to accommodate its two fire trucks, an ambulance and other firefighting equipment for year-round use.

Hollis VFD currently has two temporary EMS buildings. Both structures are wooden shells with dirt floors and only the 20' x40' shed to house the 38-foot long fire truck is heated. Consequently, the fire department's other fire truck and water tanker has to be drained of water rendering them useless until spring. The ambulance is hard to start in cold weather and occasionally has to be jump-started with a standby battery. Without heated facilities the water supply in the fire trucks and water tanker could freeze or become slushy and unusable, and the fire trucks' water valves, gauges, hoses and instruments could crack and/or break in below freezing temperatures. This happened to a fire truck in a neighboring island community during a recent winter because there were no heated facilities available to house the fire truck.

Historically, it is in the wintertime that most domestic fires here occur because several island homes are heated by wood-burning stoves and fireplaces. In addition, more residents are resorting to wood-burning stoves over diesel and propane heat because of the increasing cost of fossil fuels. Using wood burning stoves increases the probability of a domestic fire because of creosote build-up in the stove chimneys, and the constant sparks emanating from these chimneys. With a heated fire station large enough to accommodate the fire trucks, firefighting equipment and ambulance, the Hollis community could have a viable emergency service operation year round—something every community should have to protect property and lives 24-7, 365 days a year.

There will be several operational benefits the fire department and community if the new fire station is funded. The fire department will be combat ready day-to-day, 12 months a year thereby enhancing overall public safety. It will increase the firefighter's ability to protect the lives and property of the local community year-round as well as to three other communities to which we provide mutual aid. The firefighters response time will be much quicker because all firefighting equipment and protective clothing will be efficiently and conveniently organized in one single building and readily available for immediate use, rather than stored in individual firefighters' homes, garages or vehicles. A newly organized and efficient fire station

would enhance the capacity of the fire department/EMS to handle more than one emergency at one time.

The fire department local training personnel would be more efficient and organized in conducting training sessions in a regular meeting room, where training equipment and materials are located in one area—rather than pack training materials for training sessions at the small public library or at a firefighter's home, as is the case at present. It would also be more conducive and less expensive to bring professional fire safety instructors to Hollis for training sessions, as they would have kitchen and sleeping facilities at the safe and secure fire station. Hollis does not have motel or restaurant facilities, so we presently have to drive out-of-town instructors and visitors 28 miles to Craig to stay in a motel and eat meals at a restaurant there. The sleeping quarters would be a huge benefit for firefighters as they could take shifts staffing the fire station at night.

The classroom-training program could be expanded to include new recruits and cross training with firefighters from the Klawock Fire Department—because the meeting room would accommodate a larger number of firefighters and have a classroom atmosphere and setting with all training materials and equipment being centrally located and ready for use. We presently train firefighters at the small public library or in firefighters' home, which restricts the number of firefighters that can be trained at one time. The instructors have to pack the training materials to and from the place of training. We could expand our public relations with Hollis School students, Hollis visitors and the public by offering free tours of the new fire station. It would be educational and informative to students and visitors alike and would be good PR.

The fire department building site and construction of the fire station has been approved by all required state and federal agencies, including the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, State Department of Natural Resources-Land, Water and Minerals, State Habitat and State Archaeological Department. A gravel pad for a new fire station is already in place, ready for the cement foundation. The fire department has spent approximately \$20,000 of fund raising monies for materials to build the two structures and \$16,000 to clear nearly an acre of land for construction of a new fire station and expanding the parking area. In addition, the Hollis Community Council, the governing body for the Hollis community, has approved construction of the new fire station. We are ready to begin construction as soon as funds become available.

The new construction would enhance the fire department's response time because firefighters would be able to respond more quickly and efficiently to emergencies by working out of a fully operational fire station with all firefighting equipment, gear and protective clothing located in one place. Their response time would improve significantly, as they would not have to spend time locating the fire fighting gear and protective clothing kept in their homes, garages and vehicles. The new fire station would do wonders to a firefighter's morale and enthusiasm, which in turn would likely increase their efficiency and response time. Operating out of a well-organized fire station is so much better than working out of a small 20' x 40' shed with a dirt floor.

The new structure will allow Hollis to have a viable volunteer fire department, rather than a seasonal volunteer fire department as it is today. Our goal is to protect lives and property, and if we save one life then it makes everything worthwhile. This holds true whether you are a community with 220 residents or a community of 220,000 residents. A fire station will make us a better, more efficient and more responsive fire department and thereby increase the possibility of us someday saving a life. Hollis needs an emergency services building now.

Project Timeline:

FY 2011

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

Hollis Community Council

Grant Recipient Contact Information:

Name:	Budd Burnett
Address:	P.O. Box 706 Craig, AK 99921
Phone Number:	(907)530-7033
Email:	dbld@aptalaska.net

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

HOLLIS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

P.O. Box 706, Craig, Alaska 99921

April 22, 2010

Senator Bert K. Stedman
State Capitol
Room 516
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Senator Stedman:

The Hollis Community Council and Hollis community want to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation for your successful and remarkable efforts of getting so many important District 1 items included in the recently approved Capital Budget, particularly the \$400,000 for construction of the much needed Hollis emergency services facility. We cannot thank you enough and only hope Gov. Sean Parnell will realize the urgent need and importance of the emergency facility and how it will improve the safety and welfare of the Hollis community.

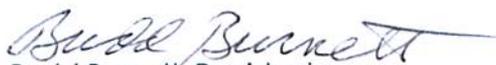
Hollis is experiencing a small growth pattern with several new homes being constructed and more planned for this summer and next year. As new homes are built, the responsibility of the fire department and fire fighters increases proportionately. The Hollis population is about 220, and saving a life and/or property in a small community is just as important as saving a life or property in a city with a population of 600,000 or more.

Hollis has an unemployment rate much higher than the 10% national average and building a new \$400,000 three-bay fire hall and EMS facility will definitely put several local people back to work. In addition, the new facility could also be used as a community meeting place for Council meetings, Fire Department/EMS training meetings, community bake sales and other community functions. Presently, the Community Council and Fire Department personnel have to meet at the small Hollis School, which is only available for community use in the evenings.

There is very little infrastructure in Hollis and having a modern emergency services building will be a giant step in the right direction and will also boost the community pride to new heights.

Whether this Hollis dream reaches fruition remains to be seen. Whichever way it goes, the Hollis Council and community thank you and your very efficient staff for all of the hard work and effort expended in behalf of District 1— which of course includes the Hollis community. Here's hoping that you and your staff have a fantastic and enjoyable summer.

Sincerely and respectfully yours,


Budd Burnett, President
Hollis Community Council

**HOLLIS COMMUNITY COUNCIL
RESOLUTION 09-02-01**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE HOLLIS COMMUNITY COUNCIL AUTHORIZING THE
COUNCIL PRESIDENT TO SUBMIT A REQUEST TO THE ALASKA STATE
LEGISLATURE FOR CAPITAL BUDGET FUNDING TO CONSTRUCT A FIRE
HALL/EMS HEATED EMERGENCY SERVICES FACILITY.**

WHEREAS, Construction of an emergency services facility has been identified as a community priority in the Hollis Community Strategic Action Plan since 2005, and

WHEREAS, The Hollis Volunteer Fire Department has a 1,000-gallon fire truck and a 3,000-gallon water tanker that can only be used in spring and summer months because the trucks, parked outside in the weather, have to be empty and idle in the winter months to prevent water pumps, gauges, and water lines from freezing and breaking, and

WHEREAS, The fire truck, water tanker and ambulance are needed year round, especially in the winter months, which is historically, when most domestic fires occur, and

WHEREAS, Hollis would be a safer place to live and to raise children if the fire fighting equipment and ambulance were housed in a heated facility and readily available for use in emergencies situations 12 months a year, and

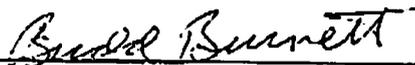
WHEREAS, Hollis is in a growth pattern with new homes being built on residential lots sold by the Department of Natural Resources in the past two years— and more local sales are planned for the next two years and beyond, and

WHEREAS, Governor Sarah Palin's budget goals and priorities include promoting "safer communities, and solid infrastructure"—and construction of the Hollis Fire Hall/EMS emergency services facility meets both criterions, and

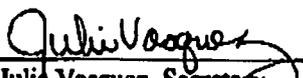
WHEREAS, Delay in construction is costly, as the price for materials, labor, transportation continue to escalate and the projected cost to build the 42'x70' fire hall has increased from \$65 per sq ft in 2006 to \$85 per sq ft in 2009.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Hollis Community Council hereby authorizes the Council President to work with and request applicable leaders in the Alaska State Legislature to pursue funding for the Hollis Fire Hall/EMS Building in the FY2010 Capital Budget.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 17TH DAY OF FEBRUARY 2009.


Budd Burnett, President

ATTEST:


Julie Vasquez, Secretary

PRINCE OF WALES COMMUNITY ADVISORY COUNCIL

Chairman: Leslie Isaacs, Klawock
Vice Chairman: Art King, Naukatli
Secretary/
Treasurer: Elaine Price, Coffman Cove

PO Box 725
Craig, AK 99921
(907) 826-3276
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February 12, 2010

Senator Bert K. Stedman
State Capitol, Rm. 30
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Dear Senator Stedman:

The Prince of Wales Community Advisory Council (P.O.W.C.A.C.) is an association of communities on Prince of Wales Island dedicated to improving the quality of life on the Island. POWCAC achieves this goal by acting in an advisory capacity to State and Federal agencies concerning issues that affect Prince of Wales communities.

Please consider Hollis Community Council's request for financial aid to construct a heated Emergency Services Facility to have the full support of P.O.W.C.A.C. If you have any questions or concerns regarding this endorsement, please feel free to contact me anytime at 907 755-2261 (office), 907 401-2018 (cell), or via email at lisaacs@cityofklawock.com.

Sincerely,



Leslie Isaacs
POWCAC Chairman

PARTICIPATING COMMUNITIES:
Coffman Cove, Craig, Hollis, Hydaburg, Kasaan, Klawock, Naukatli, Thome Bay, Whale Pass