

Wildland Fire Truck Replacement**FY2011 Request: \$1,150,000****Reference No: 33955****AP/AL:** Appropriation**Project Type:** Life / Health / Safety**Category:** Public Protection**Location:** Statewide**Contact:** Leta Simons**House District:** Statewide (HD 1-40)**Contact Phone:** (907)465-3379**Estimated Project Dates:** 07/01/2010 - 06/30/2013**Brief Summary and Statement of Need:**

This funding will replace six wildland fire engines essential for attacking fires and meeting the primary objective of containing 90% of fires at 10 acres or less on lands in "full" or "critical" protection. The Division of Forestry responds to an average of 400+ wildland fires for per year, primarily in high-value urban-interface areas. Replacement will decrease reliance on out-dated engines and increase safety for firefighters. This project supports the Division of Forestry's mission to manage fires in the most effective and cost-efficient manner possible, meeting statutory requirements to provide fire protection on all state, municipal and private lands.

Funding:	FY2011	FY2012	FY2013	FY2014	FY2015	FY2016	Total
Gen Fund	\$1,150,000	\$800,000		\$800,000		\$800,000	\$3,550,000
Total:	\$1,150,000	\$800,000	\$0	\$800,000	\$0	\$800,000	\$3,550,000

<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:	36,000	0
Ongoing Operating:	0	0
One-Time Startup:	0	
Totals:	36,000	0

Additional Information / Prior Funding History:

SLA09/CH15 \$ 375,000 In progress, specs being developed.

SLA08/CH29 \$ 625,000 Engines acquired in 2009.

Project Description/Justification:

The Division of Forestry has developed a long-term engine replacement plan designed to meet increasing maintenance and operational costs determined by the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities. Engine specifications are designed to meet National Fire Protection Association standards and manufacturer availability has been determined. Engine replacement continues for the Areas of Delta, Kenai (Homer), Fairbanks, Anchorage/Mat-Su and Copper River.

This project will fund replacement engines. It is anticipated that the purchase will include three Type 4 (medium size) fire engines and three Type 6/7 (light size) fire engines. In some areas, Forestry fire engines are first responders to high population urban/wildland interface fires. It is essential that the State maintains equipment to industry standards in order to limit liability, ensure public and firefighter safety and provide reliable response capability.

The Type 6/7 engines provide quick response and maneuverability as well as the capability of patrolling long distances in Division of Forestry’s protection areas. Engine crewmembers often provide first on-scene evaluation of values at risk, potential fire behavior, additional resources needed, and mobile communications. Type 4 engines can provide additional crewmembers (up to five); 500 to 750 gallons of water with fire suppressant foam, and provide equipment that can be used to keep potentially large fires at their minimum acreage.

Why is this Project Needed Now?

Maintenance costs on outdated equipment increase proportionately to age and use. Engines needing replacement have out dated technology such as two point safety restraints as well as deteriorating utility bodies. In working with or directly in support of local fire departments, the cooperative effort benefits the public with improved service, reduced costs and successful engine response to wildland fires.

Engine replacement requires lead-time and planning, as the vehicles are manufactured by specialty contractors, and must be ordered as far as a year in advance. Wildland fire activity has been increasing over the past several years in all protection areas. The Division of Forestry is the primary engine response group for the roaded areas. Alaska continues to increase in population, residents have a propensity to build in both remote and urban fire prone areas.

Additionally, fire seasons are starting earlier, have increased in intensity, and are prolonged in duration.

Specific Spending Detail:

<u>LINE ITEM</u>	<u>DOLLAR AMOUNT</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>
Personal Services	\$ 10,000	Mechanic, Technician time of oversight of production (2 mo each)
Travel	\$ 7,500	2 Inspections trips to factory
Services	\$ 7,500	Additional Shipping oversight
Commodities	\$ 1,125,000	Engine purchase, shipping, radios

Provide estimated annual ongoing operating and maintenance costs after project completion/implementation:

<u>Dollar Amount & Fund Source</u>	<u>Number of Positions FT/PT</u>	<u>Description</u>
\$ 36,000	Full time: 0	Increased cost to DOT/PF for maintenance and replacement
Fund Source: GF	Part time: 0	

Project Support:

Continued support from the Alaska State Fire Chiefs Association, Interior Fire Chiefs Association, Kenai Peninsula, Mat/Su, Fairbanks North Star, and Denali Boroughs, 60+ local fire departments, and the public who receive the benefit of increased wildland fire protection.

The State of Alaska Division of Forestry provides the primary engine support for wildland fire control for our fire suppression cooperators (Alaska Fire Service, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Park Service, U.S. Department of Defense, and local fire departments).

Project Opposition:

No anticipated opposition.