

**Crime Lab Replacement**

**FY2011 Request: \$75,750,000**

**Reference No: 41600**

**AP/AL:** Appropriation  
**Category:** Law and Justice  
**Location:** Anchorage Areawide

**Project Type:** Construction  
**Contact:** Dan Spencer, Director, Administrative Services

**House District:** Anchorage Areawide (HD 17-32) **Contact Phone:** (907)465-5488  
**Estimated Project Dates:** 07/01/2010 - 06/30/2013

**Brief Summary and Statement of Need:**

The current crime lab facility, completed in 1986, houses the state's forensic laboratory, serving all law enforcement agencies in Alaska. Due to the advent of DNA analysis, an increase in police presence around the state and greater court evidence demands, the facility is no longer physically capable of housing the personnel and instrumentation necessary to meet the state's forensic analysis demands. This project would fund the replacement of the current, over-crowded facility with a new facility to include increased laboratory, mechanical, evidence storage and unfinished shell space. This plan meets immediate needs of the crime laboratory while providing a highly flexible platform for addressing future needs.

<b>Funding:</b>	<u>FY2011</u>	<u>FY2012</u>	<u>FY2013</u>	<u>FY2014</u>	<u>FY2015</u>	<u>FY2016</u>	<u>Total</u>
COPs	\$75,750,000						\$75,750,000
<b>Total:</b>	\$75,750,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$75,750,000

<input type="checkbox"/> State Match Required	<input type="checkbox"/> One-Time Project	<input type="checkbox"/> Phased - new	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Phased - underway	<input 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:	0	0
Ongoing Operating:	0	0
<u>One-Time Startup:</u>	0	
<b>Totals:</b>	0	0

**Additional Information / Prior Funding History:**

Sec 1, Ch 82, SLA 2006, pg 81, L 15, \$4,800.0 GF  
Sec 10, Ch 29 SLA 2008, pg 75, L 14-16 \$12,000.0 GF

**Project Description/Justification:**

The current crime lab facility was completed in 1986 to house the state's forensic laboratory functions that serve all law enforcement agencies in the state. The facility is no longer physically capable of housing the personnel and instrumentation necessary to meet the state's forensic analysis demands.

Laboratory personnel provide scientific analysis of forensic evidence, court testimony, and training to all local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies in Alaska in the areas of latent fingerprints, firearms, blood and breath alcohol analysis, controlled substance analysis, and DNA analysis.

The advent of DNA analysis and its use in solving crimes has resulted in establishment of an entire new section, including personnel, instrumentation, and evidence analysis, whose space has to be fit into a facility that was already crowded at best. With new laws requiring large classes of convicted

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criminals and arrestees to provide DNA samples, the expansion of interconnected DNA databases nationwide, and significant improvements in DNA technologies, this section will only continue to grow in importance to the law enforcement community. Increasing demand has forced other sections of the laboratory into spaces such as the vehicle examination bay and maintenance areas, resulting in the inability to analyze large evidence items such as vehicles.

All sections of the laboratory are experiencing an increase in the amount of evidence and types of examinations requested for forensic exams. This is a result of increases in the number of police personnel around the state, the success of new technologies, and an increased expectation for scientific analysis on the part of the court system. All these contribute to increase the demands on the laboratory.

In simple terms, we have outgrown the current facility. The existing space is 19,200 square feet and houses 39 full time employees. The building is at the limit of its ability to house staff, equipment, and support modern forensic scientific techniques. At the time the current facility was completed, forensic scientific analysis in the state of Alaska was nationally acknowledged as an industry leader in its abilities. Today, while the work performed is of the highest quality, services and techniques offered are restricted due to the current facility and we have fallen behind by years in techniques currently used by most state laboratory systems.

Without a new facility designed to support current and emerging forensic science techniques, the ability of the crime laboratory to support law enforcement needs will continue to diminish.

The department has completed site selection, lease negotiation, design, and site preparation using funding from FY2007 and FY2009 capital appropriations. The current design calls for the construction 49,202 square feet of laboratory space, 13,656 square feet of supporting mechanical space, 5,410 square feet of evidence storage, and 16,142 square feet of unfinished, shell space for future needs. This will meet the immediate needs of the crime laboratory while providing a highly flexible platform for addressing future changes and needs.