

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

Gustavus - Volunteer Fire Department SCBA Fit Testing and Radio Equipment

State Funding Requested: \$28,220**House District: 5 / C**

One-Time Need

Brief Project Description:

Project improves safety and health protection for the volunteer responders, regulatory compliance, and general performance capability for GVFD. It provides for SCBA fit-testing equipment used by responders. It also upgrades the 25-year-old radio system with a new base station and 24 new radio sets meeting 2012 FCC narrow-band frequency mandate.

Funding Plan:

Total Project Cost:	\$28,220
Funding Already Secured:	(\$0)
FY2012 State Funding Request:	<u>(\$28,220)</u>
Project Deficit:	\$0

*Funding Details:**This is a first time request.***Detailed Project Description and Justification:****GVFD Overview and Benefits**

The Gustavus Volunteer Fire Department (GVFD) was formed over 25 years ago and became a department of the City of Gustavus upon incorporation in 2004. Until recently the department has been staffed entirely by volunteers. In 2010 the Gustavus City Council determined to upgrade strongly the quality, reliability, and performance of the department under the leadership of a paid Fire Chief. In the few short months since the new Chief assumed his duties, the department has made great strides. The number of active EMS and firefighting volunteers has quintupled. The January 2011 roster now totals 26 volunteers under the Chief. This is remarkable support for a City with a population of just over 400.

Most important, volunteer attendance at weekly training is at an all time high. The Chief has organized EMS and fire training schools being taught by outside training specialists on-site in Gustavus, as well as scheduling responders to training elsewhere in Alaska and the Lower 48 to build critical skills and confidence. Critical, also, to improved performance has been a review of equipment quality and adequacy. Gaps are being identified and plans made to fill them. Top priorities for new equipment, replacements and upgrades are those items intended to assure safety and health protection for volunteer responders.

Project Description

The requested CIP funding will allow us to address the following:

Contact Name: NONE
Contact Number: 0

For use by Co-chair Staff Only:

**\$28,220
Approved**

10:26 AM 5/27/2011

Respirator fit-testing equipment.

The OSHA Respiratory Protection Standard (29CFR1910.134) requires fit-testing of users of respirators to ensure that the respirators they are assigned will indeed provide the protection factor needed for the anticipated exposure. This is particularly important for emergency responders using self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA), which must be fit-tested with quantitative fit testing equipment. This project will provide for the purchase of a quantitative fit-testing machine and associated Toughbook laptop computer to run the tests and store data. The Toughbook computer is commonly used in the fire service in Alaska because of its durability in the field on a response. We intend to use it for fit testing and other emergency response field activities. The GVFD respiratory protection program and fit-testing will be overseen by a board-certified industrial hygienist, providing safety and health services to the department pro bono.

Radio system upgrade.

The GVFD base station and many of the hand sets used by dispatchers and volunteers are 25 years old. Reliability has become a serious concern as the Gustavus 911 response system depends on the performance of these obsolete radios. Furthermore the FCC has mandated that emergency response radios comply meet narrow band frequency standards as of 2012. Our old radios do not meet that requirement. This project will replace the base station and 24 handsets plus batteries and charging stations, all compliant with new FCC requirements.

Detailed budget.

Quantitative fit testing machine: \$10,500.

Laptop computer to run fit tester: \$2,500.

Base Station: \$5,000.

24 handsets with charging stations and extra batteries: \$10,000.

Freight: \$220.

Project Timeline:

Upon receipt of funding, we will act immediately to get competitive quotes and then to purchase the equipment. We anticipate completing the purchases within FY2012.

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

City of Gustavus

Grant Recipient Contact Information:

Name: Ms Kapryce Manchester
 Title: City Clerk
 Address: PO Box 1
 Gustavus, Alaska 99826
 Phone Number: (907)697-2451
 Email: clerk@gustavus-ak.gov

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