

Agency: Commerce, Community and Economic Development**Grants to Municipalities (AS 37.05.315)****Grant Recipient: Fairbanks****Federal Tax ID: 92-6000140****Project Title:****Project Type: Equipment and Materials****Fairbanks - Ambulance****State Funding Requested: \$230,000****House District: Fairbanks Areawide (7-11)**

One-Time Need

Brief Project Description:

Replace current first line ambulance from a Ford F-350 light duty ambulance to a medium duty ambulance. The medium duty ambulance has an increased cost of about \$100,000 over a light duty model, but it has the advantages of increased patient safety, ambulance crew safety, increased pay load, more storage, and easier maintenance access with a hinged cab.

Funding Plan:

Total Project Cost:	\$260,000
Funding Already Secured:	(\$30,000)
FY2013 State Funding Request:	<u>(\$230,000)</u>
Project Deficit:	\$0

Funding Details:

Project costs \$260,000: this is based on our current ambulance cost of \$160,000 with \$100,000 added on for upgrading to a medium duty ambulance.

Funding already secured: the Fairbanks Fire Department has the \$30,000 match in its Capital Account dedicated to ambulance replacement.

FY11 State Funding Request: \$230,000. This amount is based on our estimated costs less our \$30,000 match.

Detailed Project Description and Justification:

This project would replace our oldest of 4 light duty ambulances with a medium duty vehicle. This upgrade in vehicle size will increase the load carry capabilities of our ambulance for not only equipment, but patients as well. The vehicle with its hinged cab will reduce maintenance time by providing easy access by vehicle mechanics. The vehicle will be equipped with a patient loading lift (similar to a tommy lift) to assist with the transport of bariatric patients. The larger cab will provide for warm storage of equipment that is now stored in an unheated compartment. It is hoped that by upgrading to the medium duty ambulance we will be able to increase the service life of our front line ambulance from 2 years to 4 years.

The City of Fairbanks Fire Department enhances the health and well being of the people of Alaska by providing a fire safe and hazard free community while protecting life and property from fire and other emergencies. The mission is accomplished through public education, fire code management, fire suppression, paramedic level pre-hospital emergency medical care and transport, hazardous condition mitigation and rescue services. As first responders in the Fairbanks area, the Fairbanks Fire Department's primary goal is to save lives by ensuring the appropriate equipment is available and that staff is trained.

The City of Fairbanks Fire Department is requesting funds for an ambulance upgrade in the amount of \$230,000.

Project Management

The Project Manager is Chief Warren Cummings. Warren Cummings has been with the City of Fairbanks Fire Department for over 39 years and has been the head of the department for the last 17 years. Chief Cummings has been the project manager on a variety of state and federal grants. He is responsible for the annual budget as well as 42 full-time employees. In 2007, Chief Cummings completed a two-year term as President of the Alaska Fire Chiefs Association. He served as the Alaska Vice President for the Western Fire Chiefs Association for three years which covers a 10 state region. He is now serving on the International Association of Fire Chiefs and is a member of the Constitution, Bylaws and Resolution Committee. He reports to the Mayor and as needed the Chief of Staff.

Project Staff

The City of Fairbanks manages over 50 federal and state grants every year. The City has an experienced staff that is familiar with state and federal grant guidelines and has completed the required audits with no findings identified. The City of Fairbanks has established and maintained a financial management system to ensure:

- there are accurate, current, and complete disclosure of the financial results of the grant;
- there are effective controls over and accountability for all grant funds and property acquired with grant funds;
- there are accurate comparison of actual and budgeted amounts;
- that the accounting records, which are supported by source documentation, adequately identify the nature and use of, grant funds;
- there are separate financial records for the accounting of funds related to the grant;
- there are procedures to ensure timely reporting and receipt of grant funds; and
- that an audit is conducted every year in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards.

The Fairbanks Fire Department has experience with emergency services grants awarded through various agencies such as the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and the State of Alaska. The department has experience with financial and programmatic requirements of grantors and has been successful in achieving their goals. The following individuals will also be working on the project:

Specification Committee: The Specification Committee is comprised of two individuals, Captain Brian Davis and Captain Keith Berrian. Captain Davis and Captain Berrian have a combined 34 years of experience with the Fairbanks Fire Department and 24 years as paramedics. They have recently attended a seminar on apparatus specifications and ambulance trends. The committee is part of the Fairbanks Fire Department and will assist in the development of the bid and selection of the vendor. The committee will report directly to the Project Manager.

Grants Administration: Margarita Bell, CPA, CMA began her position as the grants administrator at the City in 2008. Prior to that time she worked in a non-profit organization and was responsible for managing and administering federal grants. Margarita works in the finance department and is responsible for timely financial grant reporting and enforcing grant conditions. She works closely with project managers and department administrators to accomplish the goals of each grant. She also maintains the capital assets list for the City of Fairbanks which includes all assets, whose value exceeds \$5,000, that were purchased using grant funds. She reports directly to the Chief Financial Officer, and as needed, the Mayor and Chief of Staff.

See Organizational Structure Charts, Attached.

Executive Summary

The Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU), Section 2014, First Responder Roadside Vehicle Safety, requires that NHTSA (National Highway Traffic Safety Administration) develop and implement a comprehensive program to address the safety of first responders. In addition, the Alaska Highway Safety Office Program Guideline, Number 11, identifies Emergency Medical Services and requires properly licensed, equipped and maintained ambulances along with the proper training of ambulance drivers. The City of Fairbanks Fire Department plans to meet these requirements by upgrading its first line ambulance from a light duty model to a medium duty type to increase the carrying capacity for patients, crew, equipment and supplies that are critical in saving lives by safely providing emergency services for responders and patients.

Problem/Needs Statement

The City of Fairbanks is located in the heart of Alaska's Interior on the banks of the Chena River in the Tanana Valley. The city has a population of approximately 32,506 and is the second largest city in the State of Alaska. In addition, residents from the Fairbanks North Star Borough visit the City of Fairbanks daily. When combined with the city population, it brings the total population to 93,779 (Source: 2009 Alaska Population Overview). Large numbers of tourists also visit the City of Fairbanks throughout the summer months (est. 325,000) as Fairbanks is at the confluence of the Richardson, Parks, Steese, and Elliott Highways which connect it to Anchorage, Canada, and the lower 48 states. This equates to even more traffic flow through our community.

See EMS Calls Charts and Graphs, attached.

The Fire Department provides paramedic level pre-hospital emergency medical care and transportation via ambulances. The Fire Department is currently using a Ford F-350 for our ambulance fleet and has discovered that we are very close to our gross vehicle weight ratings (GVWR) when we add a patient and additional fire fighters to care for our patients. The GVWR for our current ambulance is 13,000 and that of a medium duty ambulance will be 20,000 which will increase our carrying capacity by 57.5% for patients, crew, equipment and supplies.

The Fairbanks Fire Department is part of an area wide mutual aid agreement between all of our surrounding fire departments. This vehicle will be part of this area wide mutual aid agreement and therefore available for response to any one of these agencies upon request. Our mutual aid agreement is with two Federal fire departments, one student based fire department, one airport fire department, five combination/volunteer fire departments and one fire brigade. Within the ten mutual aid fire protection districts we have the Trans Alaska Oil Pipeline (of national interest), a major university campus, two military installations, two petrochemical plants, three major airports (two military), a railroad yard and many significant target hazards. This vehicle will not only enhance our operations but will also benefit the surrounding community. This ambulance will also improve the interoperability between all the departments in this mutual aid agreement and mass casualty response.

The medium duty ambulance will also result in other improvements such as warm storage for equipment now stored in unheated compartments, increased crew safety, better visibility with the addition of reflective stripping on the rear of the apparatus as outline in NFPA (National Fire Protection Policy Association) 1901 and increased equipment storage space. To ensure the safety of first responders, staff will be provided commercial vehicle driving classes and road test training on the new vehicle by qualified commercial instructors before placing the vehicle in service.

The U.S. Fire Administration reports that 15% of all fire fighter deaths are responding to and from emergency responses. The NFPA reported a total of 4,965 injuries to fire fighters while responding to or from emergency calls. Our need is not to add to these national totals but to safely save lives by serving over hundreds of patients each year.

Goals

The Fire Department will endeavor to reduce motor vehicle fatalities by upgrading our ambulance to ensure safety of responders and patients by:

1. Improving emergency responder safety through better visibility, up to date safety features, improved equipment access, and up to date training by increasing the GVWR from 13,000 to 20,000.
2. Improving patient safety by upgrading a light duty ambulance to a medium duty ambulance.
3. Improved response to motor vehicle accidents by reducing maintenance time due to the design of medium duty ambulances by 25%.
4. Ensuring ambulance availability to respond to motor vehicle accidents by extending the life from two years (light duty) to four years (medium duty).

Implementation Plan

The Project Manager will notify the Mayor and City Council that the grant has been awarded. The Specification Committee will prepare the bid documentation for general posting. Once the bids have been received, the Specification Committee will use the criteria established to award the bid. The vendor selected will have seven months to construct the ambulance. The Project Manager or Specification Committee member will visit the vendor to inspect the ambulance prior to delivery. Upon receipt, the ambulance will be inspected and the fire fighters/paramedics will be trained. The ambulance will be placed in service after the appropriate staff has been trained. The Grants Administrator will report to the State of Alaska as required by the grant award.

Risk Management

The medium duty ambulance is being used by a number of different agencies throughout the United States to include Miami-Dade Fire Rescue which has a large number of this type of vehicle in service. This is not a new type of ambulance and should not be considered untested technology. As for unforeseen risk factors, we will not be taking any of our current ambulances out of service until the new medium ambulance is ready for service and our emergency personnel are trained on its operation.

Project Timeline:

The City of Fairbanks Fire Department would develop specifications for this vehicle within 90 days of grant award. The current build time for a new ambulance is 9 to 12 months, which would put delivery of the bariatric ambulance in the time frame from July to September of 2013.

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

The City of Fairbanks.

Grant Recipient Contact Information:

Name:	Warren B. Cummings
Title:	Fire Chief
Address:	1101 Cushman Street Fairbanks, Alaska 99701
Phone Number:	(907)450-6604
Email:	wcummings@ci.fairbanks.ak.us

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

CITY OF FAIRBANKS

800 Cushman Street, Fairbanks, AK 99701

MEDIUM DUTY AMBULANCE

\$260,000

The City of Fairbanks is planning on upgrading its current first line ambulance from a Ford F-350 light duty ambulance to a medium duty ambulance. The medium duty ambulance has an increased cost of about \$100,000 over a light duty model, but it has the advantages of increased ambulance crew safety, patient safety, increased pay load, more storage and much easier maintenance access with a hinged cab.

We feel that we will be able to extend the service life of our front line ambulance from two (2) years to four (4) years with the upgrade from a light duty to a medium duty model. The estimated four year cost of a medium duty ambulance at \$260,000 compared to the \$320,000 for two light duty ambulances (\$160,000 each) will be a \$60,000 savings in that four year period.

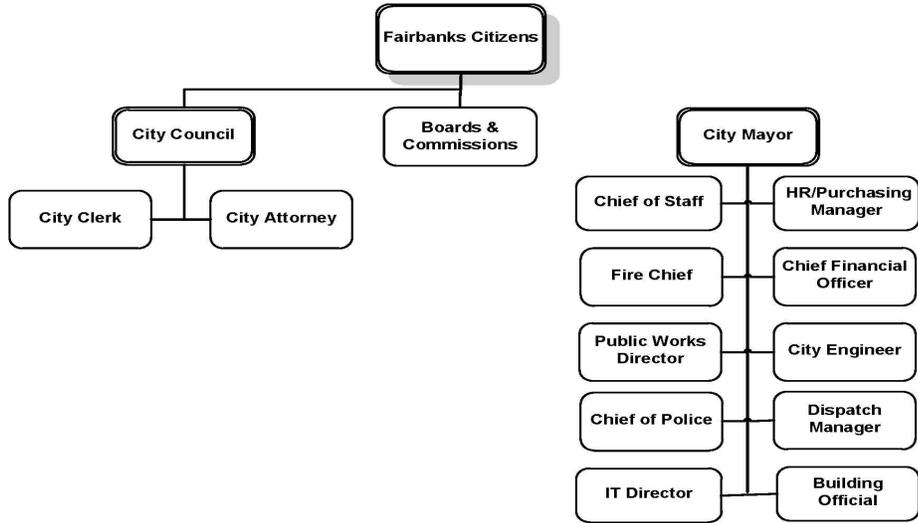


Medium Duty Model Ambulance

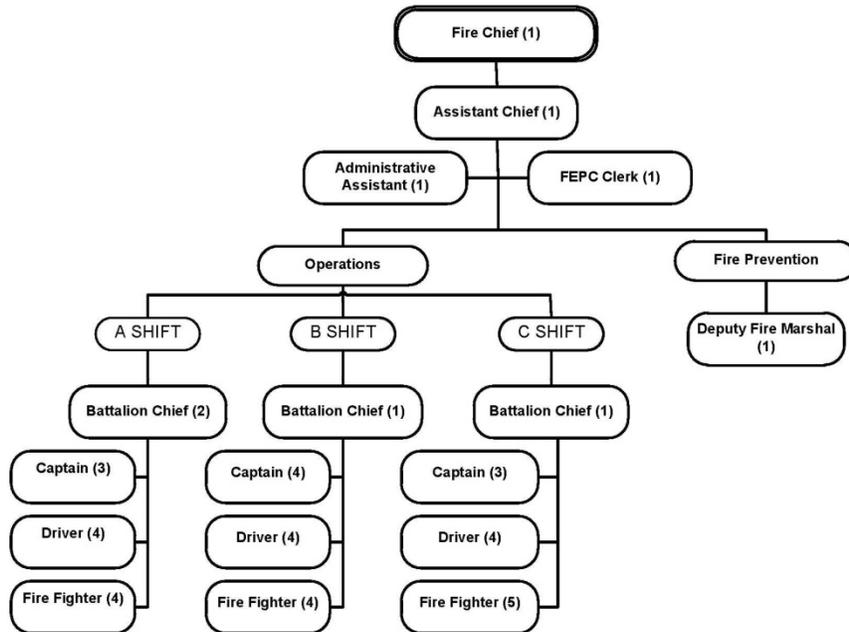


Light Duty Model Ambulance

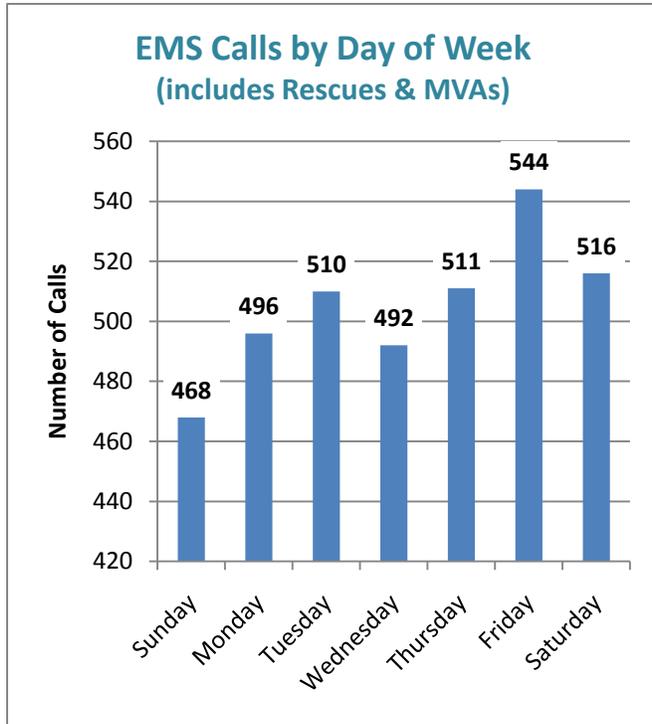
City of Fairbanks 2011



Fire Department 2011

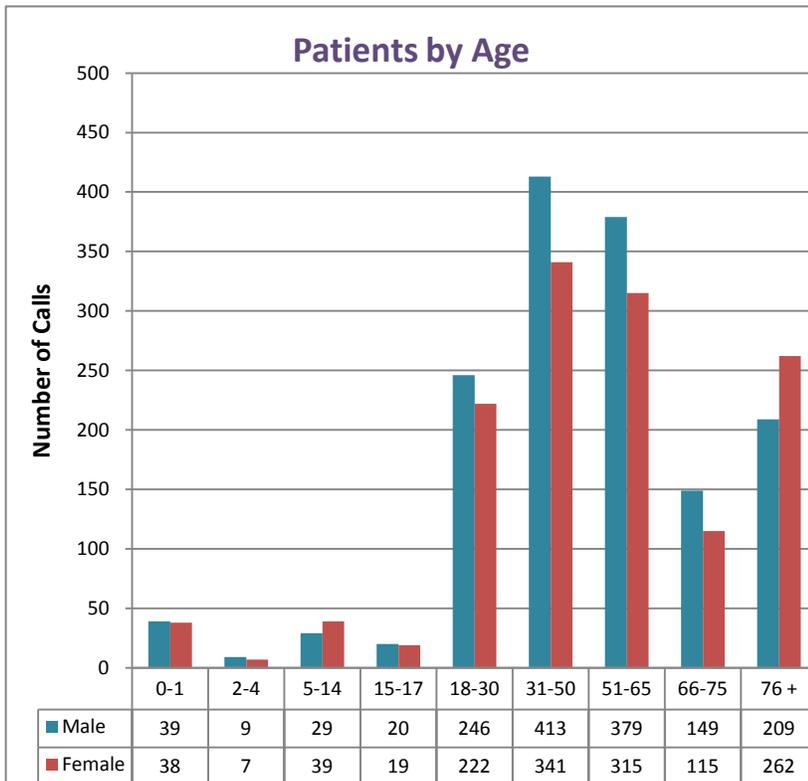
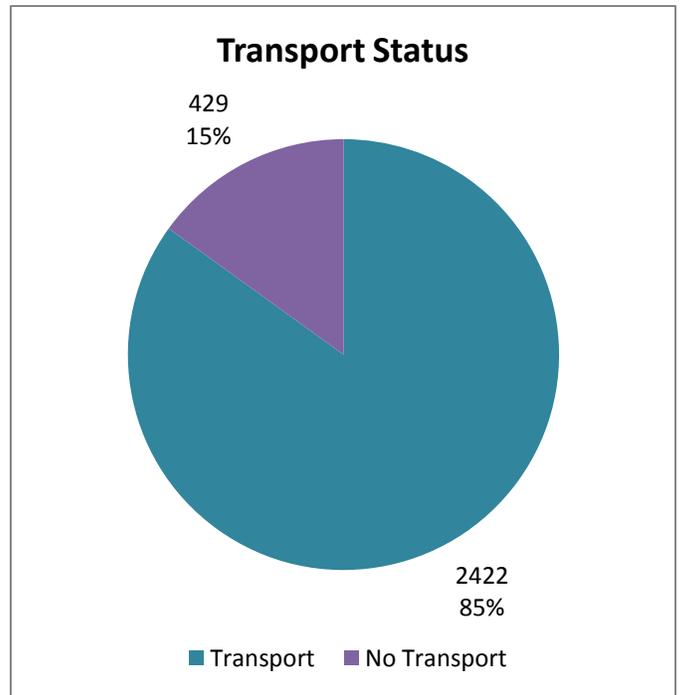


EMS Calls for 2010

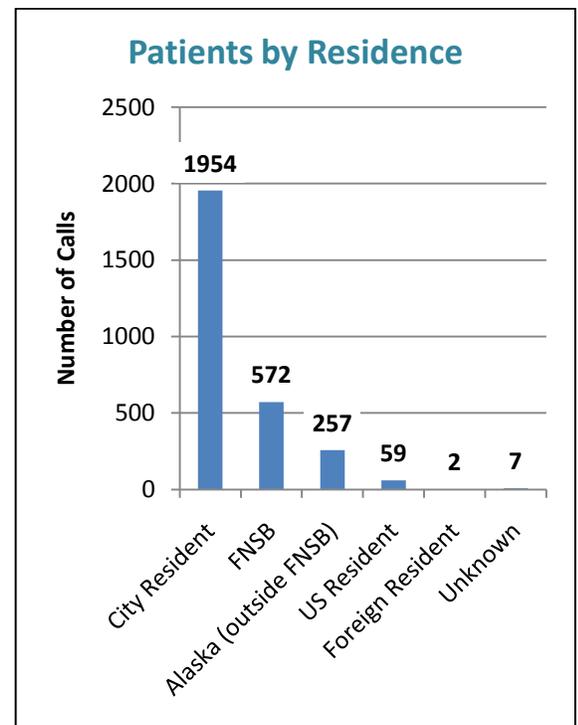


Fridays were the most active day for EMS calls.

In 2010, there were **3537** EMS Calls, with a total of **2851** patients assessed or treated, and **2422** transported.

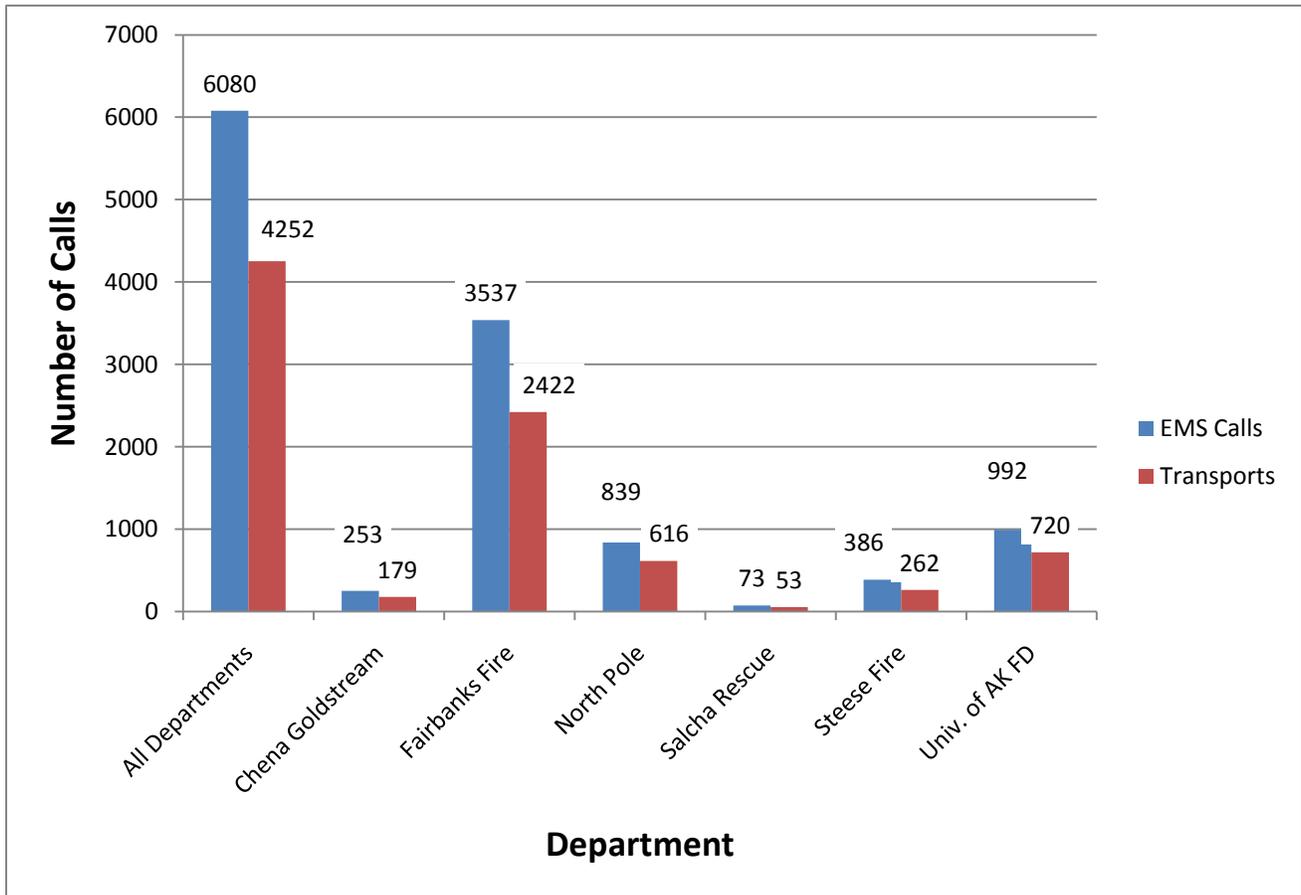


Patients **31 to 50** years old were the most common. The majority of patients were City residents.



Areawide Activity Comparison for EMS

2010 Areawide EMS Activity



	% of Call Volume	EMS Calls	Transports	Transport Ratio
Chena Goldstream	4.1	253	179	70.8%
Fairbanks Fire	58.2	3537	2422	68.5%
North Pole FD	13.8	839	616	73.4%
Salcha Rescue	1.2	73	53	72.6%
Steese Fire	6.4	386	262	67.9%
Univ. of AK FD	16.3	992	720	72.6%
All Departments	100.0	6080	4252	69.9%