

**Agency: Commerce, Community and Economic Development****Grants to Named Recipients (AS 37.05.316)****Grant Recipient: Ester Volunteer Fire Department****Federal Tax ID: 92-0111226****Project Title:****Project Type: Equipment and Materials**

# Ester Volunteer Fire Department - Emergency Response Vehicle Conversion

**State Funding Requested: \$100,000****House District: Fairbanks Areawide (7-11)**

One-Time Need

**Brief Project Description:**

Rehabilitate existing light duty rescue truck by transferring equipment and personnel compartment to new chassis.
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**Funding Plan:**

Total Project Cost:	\$125,000
Funding Already Secured:	(\$25,000)
FY2013 State Funding Request:	<u>(\$100,000)</u>
Project Deficit:	\$0

**Detailed Project Description and Justification:**

The Ester Volunteer Fire Department (EVFD) utilizes a light duty rescue truck (Rescue 51) to respond to all medical emergencies and motor vehicle accidents. Since the apparatus was purchased in 1996, it has served its 10-year life very well. However, regulations and medical services have expanded in the past 10 years and Rescue 51 no longer meets the current demands of our services. It has a severe lack of power and weight carrying capacity which limits the size and types of tools we can carry to an emergency. This power to weight ratio is critical in our hilly terrain. Additionally, as the weight of the truck is maximized, the trucks braking distance has increased to unacceptable distances. This project will convert the existing rescue vehicle into a medium duty rescue truck. Specifically, we will purchase a larger chassis (the cab, frame, engine, etc without a bed) that has sufficient power and plenty of weight carrying capability, on which we will place the walk-in "box" (equipment and personnel compartment) from our existing rescue truck. The box is a manufactured body component with compartment space for storing equipment and personnel.

EVFD has vehicle limitations that compromise our ability to respond to emergencies. Our current rescue truck, "Rescue 51," is over taxed, lacking the power and weight carrying capability critical to responding to all types of emergencies. We rely on this truck as a first response vehicle for medical emergencies and motor vehicle accidents (>50% of our calls). It houses all of our medical and rescue equipment (such as the Jaws of Life) and has the capacity to carry five emergency personnel to an incident. However, even with all of the gear removed, the empty truck is already at its rated weight capacity. The engine is undersized for the amount of equipment and hilly terrain encountered in our district. The vehicle handles poorly and cannot be driven at speeds that would be safe for a similar, properly weighted truck. Our biggest concern at this time is for our firefighters who are transported in this vehicle. Our #1 priority is to get all of our firefighters to and from the scene safely.

EVFD understands that it does not have the tax or donor base to afford a new rescue vehicle. It has been determined that we can modify the existing vehicle to meet our limited budget while also meeting the needs of our community. We have researched state regulations, assessed current and future needs of the vehicle, and have designed what we believe to be an effective, safe vehicle. The size of our department and our services that reach beyond our tax base limit our ability to pay for necessary projects like this that ensure the safety of our firefighters. We rely heavily on grants and Capital Projects to aid us in maintaining our current level of service.

**Project Timeline:**

FY13

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

Ester Volunteer Fire Department

**Grant Recipient Contact Information:**

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