Agency: Commerce, Community and Economic Development
Grants to Named Recipients (AS 37.05.316)
Grant Recipient: Alaska Veterans Museum   **Federal Tax ID:** 03-0382080

Project Title: **Project Type:** Information Systems and Technology

Alaska Veterans Museum - Interactive Information System

State Funding Requested: $26,800   **House District:** Statewide (1-40)
One-Time Need

Brief Project Description:

The project is to build and deploy a geographically enabled information system that supports the digitization, display, and dissemination of Alaska Veterans Museum information.

Funding Plan:

Total Project Cost:	$56,800
Funding Already Secured:	($30,000)
FY2013 State Funding Request:	($26,800)
Project Deficit:	$0

Funding Details:

The infrastructure/server and software costs include approximately $30,000 of existing hardware software contributed by the Alaska Veterans Museum and Peak Spatial Enterprises.

Detailed Project Description and Justification:

An immediate example of use of this interactive information system is to provide a digital replacement and enhancement to an existing physical push pin map and corresponding notebooks filled with historic Alaska military sites/bases. The system will put that information into a visitor friendly museum touchscreen and museum accessible website that will provide online visitors to the Alaska Veterans Museum and website a picture of this geographic history and to provide the museum with the ability to integrate digital artifacts into the display environment such as oral histories.

This system will offer a number of educational and research benefits to the community:

Digitize and disseminate Alaskan veteran's stories to visitors at the museum and to online participants,

Establish basic information infrastructure that can be used by researchers to visualize Alaskan veteran and military artifacts and to display results of their research,

Provide geographic, historic, and military service context to Alaska's veterans' experiences and bring them to life for the public.

Contact Name: Susan Wallen
Contact Number: 907-465-6412

For use by Co-chair Staff Only:

$26,800
Approved

3:18 PM 5/2/2012

Project Timeline:

Phase 1: January 2012 - May 2012 $7,200 - Funding for large touch screen display, data integration, display mounting support, and upgraded internet bandwidth to support on-site museum capability.

Phase 2: May 2012 - October 2012 $8,800 - Digitize and geocode the complete catalogue of historic military sites in Alaska, etc.

Phase 3: June 2012 - October 2012 $10,800 - create community outreach, external input and access capability to contribute new oral histories.

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

Alaska Veterans Museum

Grant Recipient Contact Information:

Name:	Col. Suellyn Wright Novak, USAF, Ret.
Title:	President & Executive Director
Address:	333 W. 4th Avenue, Suite 227
	Anchorage, Alaska 99501
Phone Number:	(907)694-2866
Email:	missfiresioux2@yahoo.com

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

For use by Co-chair Staff Only:

3:18 PM 5/2/2012

Contact Name: Susan Wallen
Contact Number: 907-465-6412

ALASKA
VETERANS
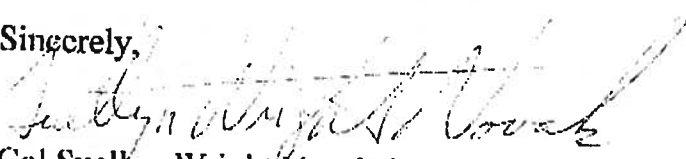## MUSEUM
"They Shall Not Be Forgotten"

March 12, 2012

Representative Anna Fairclough
State Capitol Room 501
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Representative Fairclough:

The Alaska Veterans Museum (AVM) is very proud of the relationship it has with the Alaska State Legislature and very grateful too for the unwavering support – thank you!   The previous grant for preservation and presentation allowed us to totally redesign the inside of the museum to create a better timeline, to buy archival and collections items to preserve our artifacts and to begin our educational outreach program where we will ship a "traveling footlocker" with artifacts, uniforms, photos and lesson plans out to rural Alaska for students to learn of Alaska's unique military history.

Our next large endeavor, for which we are seeking support, is to take our historian's map of 271 military sites (marked with push pins) and make it an interactive-web display to which we will link photos of the site, any artifacts from our collections, and any oral histories from Servicemen and women stationed there. The attached package provides background, concept, and cost breakout of the three phases. AVM wants to be the museum world's "go-to" site for this effort and it will raise international awareness of our museum. Adrienne Watz is our point person; contact her at (970) 988-9128 (yes the area code is 970 it's a CO phone) with any questions. Thank you again.

Sincerely,

Col Suellyn Wright Novak, USAF, Ret.
Executive Director

1 Atch
Interactive Map Project

Alaska Legislature Grant Request

Prepared by - Alaska Veterans Museum

March 10, 2012

Brief History of Organization

The Alaska Veterans Museum (AVM) organization was established in 2001 by an active group of people associated with the AVM organization for the purpose of paying tribute to the service of Alaska's unique military history and the contributions of Alaskans to the defense of the United States. The Alaska story is one of geography and of the veterans of all branches who served their time in Alaska defending our country and, for many, making Alaska their home. The AVM officially opened to the public on April 17, 2011 and is prominently located on 4th Avenue in the heart of downtown Anchorage. Our organization is striving for a successful future by actively expanding the collections and offering events, activities and educational exhibits to the public.
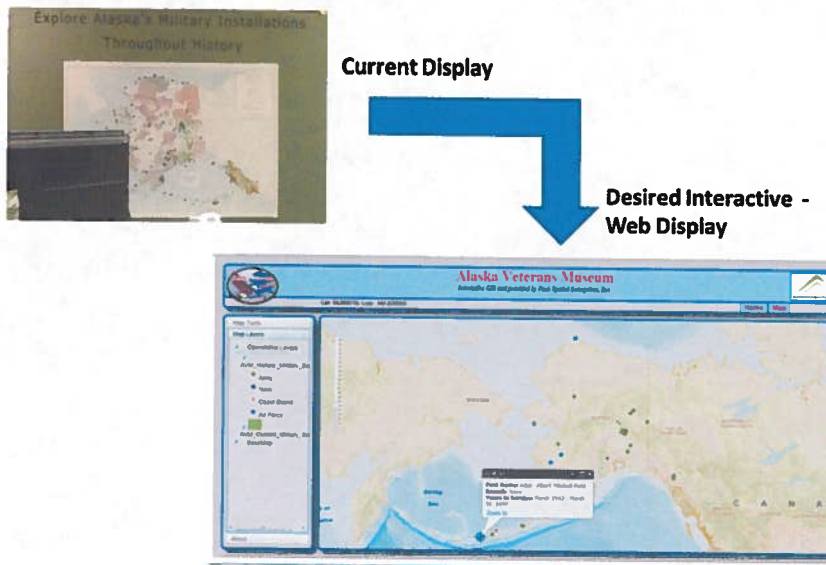
Services Provided

The AVM provides year round public access to educational exhibits highlighting Alaska's unique position in United States military history through the stories and artifacts of it's veterans both past and present. Using the Library of Congress' Veterans History Project guidelines as a model, the volunteers of the AVM have interviewed and recorded over 129 Alaska veterans' oral histories and will continue to collect the 126 veterans on the waiting list. The AVM continues to seek out more stories and artifacts from Alaska's veterans. The AVM hosts lectures and presentations based on the exhibits in the museum and books on sale in the museum's gift shop. The vision of the museum is to reach out to the public through interactive events and activities. An example of this is the Alaska Territorial Guard exhibit and statue dedication conducted on Veteran's Day 2011 and the 2011/2012 Winter Lecture Series that invites outside lecturers, writers and historians to the Museum.

Project Description

Concept

The concept of this proposed grant activity/system is to build and deploy a geographically enabled information system that supports the digitization, display, and dissemination of currently available AVM information. An immediate example of use of the system is to provide a digital replacement and enhancement to an existing physical push pin map and corresponding notebook(s) filled with historic Alaska military sites/bases. The system will put that information into a visitor friendly museum touchscreen and museum accessible web site that would provide online visitors to the Alaska Veterans Museum and website a picture of this geographic history and to provide the museum with the ability, when funding supports the activity, to integrate digital artifacts into the display environment such as oral histories. Ultimately, the system will provide the museum the ability to provide access to a number of display and data entry devices such as tablet and mobile device/smart phones.

The interactive nature of the display would allow visitors to display bases by service type (Army, AF, etc), by wartime era (Civil War, WWI, WWII, Vietnam, Cold War, Active, etc), or other museum defined structure (could display current veteran demographics of Alaska for example). By selecting a base using a pointing device (mouse, pointer, etc) or touch screen, a visitor could pull up the specific information about the base selected and/or pick different displays of information depending on their interest.

Education and Research Benefits

The proposed capability offers a number of educational and research benefits to the community. Specifically the proposed system:

- Digitizes and disseminates Alaska veteran's stories to visitors at the museum and to online participants who can't come to the museum directly;
- Establishes basic information infrastructure that can be used by researchers to visualize Alaska veteran and military artifacts and to display results of their research and;
- Provides geographic, historic, and military service context to Alaska's veterans experiences and brings them to life for the public.

The information architecture can grow with new information provided by veterans and local historians across the state so that the historical record can be enhanced and rapidly projected out to museum visitors (on line or in person)

In addition to providing basic interactive and dynamic display of information to visitors, the capability could also be used by museum personnel to modify or collect new information about the bases. This would allow a capability to collect anecdotes known by museum personnel.

Additionally, the tool could be used to collect information from visitors with memories of or experience at different bases. Visiting veterans and family members could be provided the ability to share their experiences at particular bases by filling in information about their time spent at a base and any particular stories that they'd like to share. This would provide a running/living history collection about different locations and, as the system continues to operate, would allow the collection and sharing of memories and experiences over time.

Implementation

The Alaska Veterans Museum will work with Peak Spatial to geocode the existing push pin and notebook data and build a simple mapping interface that the museum could testout prior to deployment. The system would operate on Peak Spatial servers and would be accessible using museum and customer/home internet systems from the museum web site and from display devices in the museum. A link to the site could be provided on the museum's web site. In addition to viewing data by museum and museum site visitors, the museum staff will have the ability to edit and add data to the system as necessary and under access rules set by the museum.

Description of the Beneficiaries

This grant would allow the AVM to better serve our visitors by providing a window to the past through an interactive touch screen and tablet displays and data entry devices in the museum as well as an internet network on the AVM's webpage. This project will engage the public by allowing users to connect with historical data, digitized objects, photographs and oral histories through the database system both online and through the museum's interactive touchscreen map and collection system.

This project will also serve the museum visitors and staff by allowing a greater portion of the collection to be accessible by the public without causing damage to artifacts and to include objects that may not be on display in the existing floor plan of the museum but available on line even if the object is temporarily in storage.
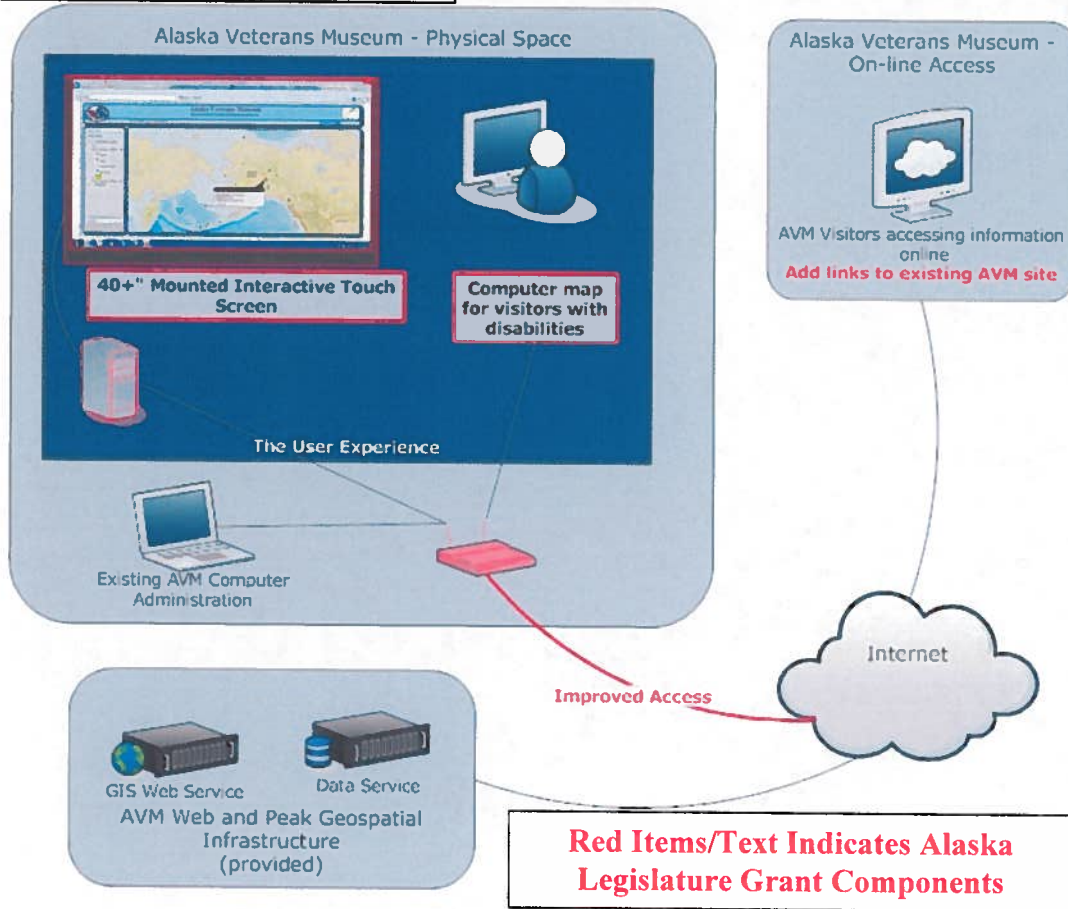
Current Status of the Project

The AVM is working with Peak Spatial Enterprises to prototype and geospatially enable existing Alaska military sites to digitally save and represent the military sites and their basic attributes to museum visitors in an interactive display format. The three basic phases for this project are:

- Phase One - Historic site/Museum Information Infrastructure implementation
- Phase Two - Digitize and Integrate AVM Artifacts and Data Entry Portals
- Phase Three - System connection to other Veteran's organizations/users

This grant request supports completion of Phases One and Two and postures the AVM to implement Phase Three prior to the 2013 visitor season.
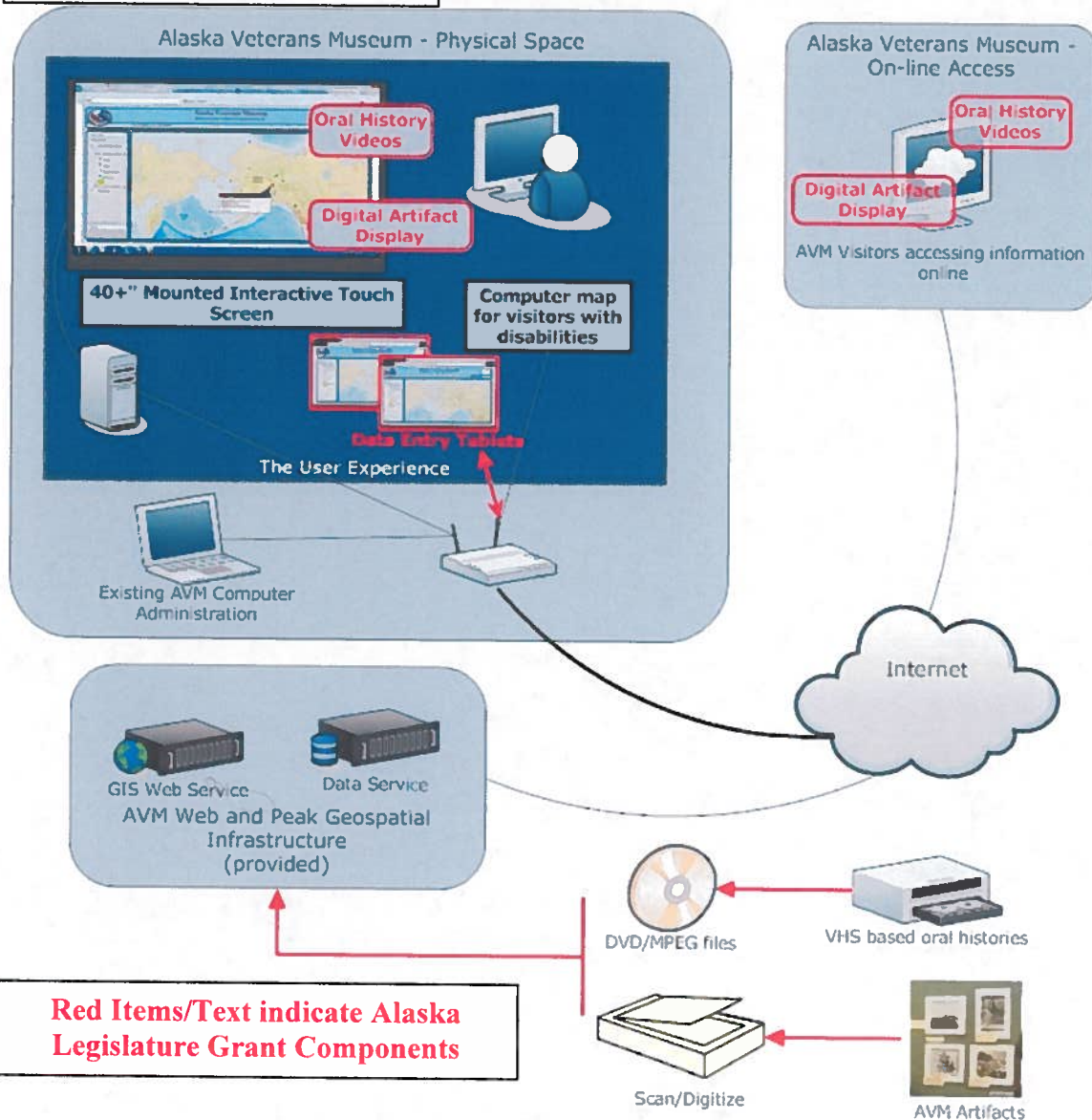
Phase One - Phase One will be to provide an interactive large screen display of the information using the current system for use within the museum and to provide the path to integrate additional veteran and military site information into the enterprise. Ultimately this capability will be dynamically updated by the museum and its patrons and will be accessible at the museum and through the museum's website. The AVM/Peak Spatial team has begun Phase One of the project by building the geographic systems components/server, integrating sample data from the museum's collection, and creating an online mockup of the map for use in refining the desired user interface (see http://elbert.peakspatial.com/avm.)

Phase One

Alaska Veterans Museum - Physical Space

40+" Mounted Interactive Touch Screen

Computer map for visitors with disabilities

The User Experience

Existing AVM Computer Administration

GIS Web Service   Data Service
AVM Web and Peak Geospatial Infrastructure (provided)

Alaska Veterans Museum - On-line Access

AVM Visitors accessing information online
Add links to existing AVM site

Internet

Improved Access

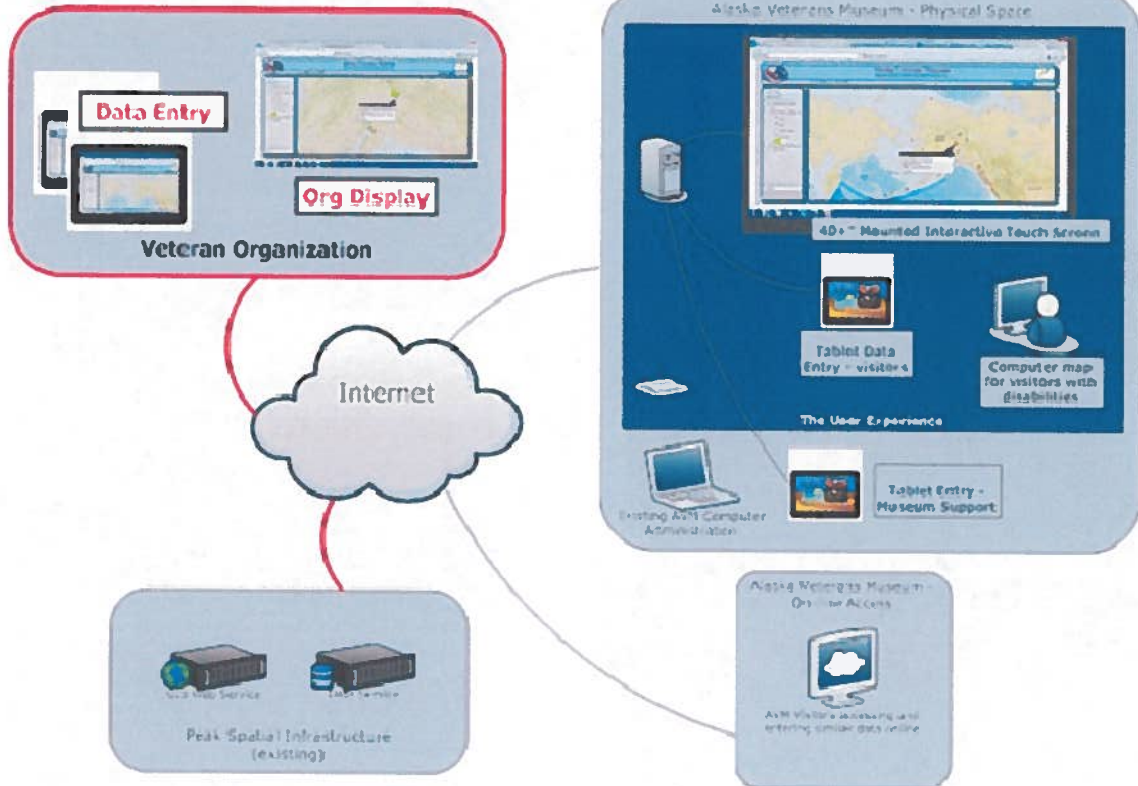Red Items/Text Indicates Alaska Legislature Grant Components

Phase Two -   Phase Two of the project supports the digitization and geographic placement of museum artifacts within the context of the digital geographic map. For example, the museum has a number of oral histories from Alaska veterans that are stored only on VHS tapes. These tapes require digitization onto disk and file formats for preservation and to link them to geographic locations referenced in the history or to the service location of the individual providing the history. These files could be linked to the geographic map display as an attribute of that location. Visitors/researchers could access the artifact/oral history and play the history in digital form on the museum display or on their home computers accessing the museum web site. By connecting these oral histories to the locations where the history occurred the viewers will be able establish the geographic context of the event or the veteran providing the historical record.

Phase Two

Alaska Veterans Museum - Physical Space

Alaska Veterans Museum - On-line Access

Oral History Videos

Digital Artifact Display

AVM Visitors accessing information online

Oral History Videos

Digital Artifact Display

40+" Mounted Interactive Touch Screen

Computer map for visitors with disabilities

Data Entry Tablets

The User Experience

Existing AVM Computer Administration

Internet

GIS Web Service

Data Service

AVM Web and Peak Geospatial Infrastructure (provided)

DVD/MPEG files

VHS based oral histories

Scan/Digitize

AVM Artifacts

Red Items/Text indicate Alaska Legislature Grant Components

Phase Three – Phase three of the project extends the utility of the museum infrastructure to other veterans organizations and users, potentially allowing them to add information to the museum's archive, in a measured way, that could be integrated quickly into the larger historic framework of the museum's collection. For example, one of the initial Winter Lecture Series topics in 2012 was the Japanese Balloon Bombings of WWII. The lecturer has specific locations and pictures of Alaska balloon landings from that era that could be included in the geographic map for location context and the pictures taken at the time could be digitized and made available by selecting icons on the map.

Phase 3 - Veteran Community Outreach

Projected Timeline for Implementation

- Phase 1: January 2012 - May 2012
- Phase 2: May 2012 - October 2012 (and continuing as new artifacts become available)
- Phase 3: June 2012 – October 2012 (and continuing as implementations require)

Cost Breakout - (details in Attachment 1)

Phase One - $7,200

The AVM and Peak Spatial Enterprises provided the initial funding and components for the basic infrastructure and initial digital map mockup. For Phase One, the AVM is requesting funding for the large touch screen display, additional data integration, display mounting support, and upgraded internet bandwidth to support the on-site museum capability. Note - the infrastructure/server and software costs include approximately $30,000 of existing hardware and software contributed by the AVM and Peak Spatial.

Phase Two - $8,800

Funding for Phase Two of the project includes activities required to digitize and geocode the complete catalogue of historic military sites in Alaska, to establish the basic artifact database entry capability, and to convert existing oral histories into digitized form and connecting them, where possible, to the geospatial display infrastructure implemented in Phase One. Atwood Foundation funding is requested to support all of Phase Two efforts.

Phase Three - $10,800

Phase Three focuses on creating a community outreach, external input and access capability, for veterans and veterans organizations, such as Veterans of Foreign Wars Posts, to contribute new oral histories and historic veteran information into the AVM system from their Post locations. This phase will also explore and test links to other military and veteran's museums with missions and objectives similar to the AVM. The War in the Pacific Museum, which shares similar objectives of the AVM is an example of this type of organizational connection.

TOTAL 2012 Funding Request - $26,800.00

Points of Contact

- Alaska Veterans Museum
  - Suellyn Wright Novak, Executive Director (907) 677-8802, col.novak@alaskaveterans.com
  - Adrienne Watz, Curator of Collections (970) 988-9128 curator@alaskaveterans.com
  - George Darrow, AVM Director and historian (907) 333-4321 georgeanchr@aol.com
  - Kaleigh Wotring, AVM IT support, K@Indra.com
- Peak Spatial Enterprises
  - Lori Koepsell, 855-PEAKSPATIAL (855-732-5772) x700, lori.koepsell@peakspatial.com

Data Rights and Privacy- All content and data rights would belong to the Museum or would be handled via the Museum's specific policies. The Museum would control access to the system. Peak Spatial will require access to the system for system updates, prototyping and administration but would sign non-disclosure and privacy agreements with the Museum and will provide secure hosting of the information on its servers. Public interaction and updates would be confined to "public" IT space. Museum personnel would decide what information is publicly displayed. If visitors are allowed to enter memories and/or updates about experiences that information will be collected and saved only after a visitor agrees to sharing the information. Personal information will not be provided on line but may be kept by the Museum for historical purposes if the contributing visitor approves.

Attachment One - Cost Breakout by Phase

Components	Phase	Qty	Item Cost	Total
Touch Screen* and Processor	One	1	2,600.00	2,600.00
ADA workstation ✚	One	1	500.00	500.00
Mounting Hrdwre	One	1	350.00	350.00
Integration w/geospatial infrastructure and data	One	60 hours	50.00	3,000.00
Upgrade AVM Internet Service	One	1	500.00	500.00
Shipping (components from CO to AK)	One		400.00	400.00
Phase One TOTALS				**7,200.00**
Touchscreen Tablets**	Two	2	400.00	800.00
Geocoding and integration of all AK military sites	Two	60 hours	50.00	3000.00
Digitize Oral Histories from VHS to DVD and digital files	Two	60 hours	30.00	1800.00
Establish database and attribute linkage to geodatabase	Two	40 hours	50.00	2000.00
Digitize AVM artifacts and enter into database	Two	40 hours	30.00	1200.00
Phase Two TOTALS				**8800.00**
Touchscreen Tablets**	Three	2	400.00	800.00
Build Veteran data entry interface to the AVM system	Three	80 hours	50.00	4000.00
Develop outreach map display capability for veteran organizations (e.g. VFW Post)	Three	60 hours	50.00	3000.00

Coordinate with local Veterans organizations for deployment and input	Three	60 hours	30.00	1800.00
Deploy outreach capability to Veterans organization	Three	40 hours	30.00	1200.00
Phase Three TOTALS				10,800.00

*potential vendors - HP, Touch Input Systems, and One World Touch (special order/on-line purchase)
** potential vendors - Samsung, Motorola (local Best Buy purchase) - optional
✝potential vendors - Dell, HP (local Best Buy type purchase) - optional