

**Agency: Commerce, Community and Economic Development****Grants to Named Recipients (AS 37.05.316)****Grant Recipient: Association of Village Council Presidents****Federal Tax ID: 9200064285****Project Title:****Project Type: Planning and Research**

# Association of Village Council Presidents - VPSO Western Alaskan Academy

**State Funding Requested: \$30,000****House District: 38 / S**

Future Funding May Be Requested

**Brief Project Description:**

Structural condition/property assessmenet and preliminary design draft. Phase One of a longer-term project.

**Funding Plan:**

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

**Detailed Project Description and Justification:**

FY 2013 funds will cover Phase One of a larger and longer-term effort to retrofit an existing AVCP-owned structure for development of a Western Alaska Regional Emergency Operations Center and VPSO Headquarters/Academy. Phase One activities will include building condition and property assessments, as well as a preliminary design.

See attached for longer-term project plan to stretch beyond this FY13 budget request. AVCP is looking to other sources to fund the eventual retrofit and repurposing work, but may also request future State capital funds for project completion.

**Project Timeline:**

(Enter)

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

Association of Village Council Presidents

**Grant Recipient Contact Information:**

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Total Project Snapshot Report

2012 Legislature

TPS Report 59120v1

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

**Association of Village Council Presidents**  
**Village Public Safety Program**  
**Western Alaska Regional Headquarters/Academy**

**Project Description**

The Association of Village Council Presidents proposes to design and retrofit an existing 2 story 60'X70' building owned by AVCP (8,400 sq ft) into the Village Public Safety Officers (VPSO) Western Alaska Regional Headquarters/Academy in Bethel, Alaska.

The VPSO Program provides an essential service to Tribes in the region. The region is remote and services are absent. The VPSO in a village is the first responder to every emergency and every incident, providing a myriad of services which include law enforcement, search and rescue, fire protection and prevention, emergency medical services, water safety, community policing, safety education, disaster coordination, probation and parole monitoring. The VPSO program has grown considerably over the past decade. Between 2005 and 2010, the VPSO program doubled. The program has grown 20% since 2010.

In the AVCP region, 36 communities have a VPSO program; 23 communities have a total of 35 officers and 13 communities are trying to hire trained officers and may request a temporary VPSO (called a float) from Bethel for up to two weeks. Fourteen new officers recently graduated and are being deployed to villages. The VPSO program in Bethel has three full-time staff plus five officers who provide regional support, which is inadequate to address the growing needs in the region.

The VPSO program currently has limited space making it difficult to provide adequate training to officers and making it difficult to meet with officers, troopers and staff. The VPSO program must provide ongoing training, support and assistance to villages and we do not have the space to provide these services. The VPSO program never has enough trained officers to meet the need in the region. AVCP must continue to work on expanding the program, recruiting new officers, implementing the Hiring Heroes Program to encourage veterans to become VPSO, providing effective, adequate service and training to all officers and to support every VPSO in each remote community.

**Budget**

AVCP has the title to the land and the existing building and will be responsible for all ongoing operation and maintenance costs for the new facility. We are requesting funds to convert the building into working, secure, energy-efficient offices and training facility.

The total cost to retrofit the existing building is \$4,000,000. Construction costs will convert the existing building into an energy-efficient, turn-key Village Public Safety Regional Headquarters/Academy for Western Alaska.

Costs were estimated based upon Denali Commission's Update and Revise Cost Containment Benchmarks and costs from the AVCP Regional Housing Authority. The estimate square foot cost to renovate the exiting building is \$475 per square foot.

End.