

Agency: Commerce, Community and Economic Development**Grants to Municipalities (AS 37.05.315)****Grant Recipient: Anchorage****Federal Tax ID: 92-0059987****Project Title:****Project Type:** Remodel, Reconstruction and Upgrades

Anchorage - Hightower Road Upgrade Alyeska Highway to Community Center

State Funding Requested: \$2,100,000

One-Time Need

House District: Anchorage Areawide (11-27)**Brief Project Description:**

This project will upgrade the gravel access road to the new Girdwood Library and Community Center.

Funding Plan:

Total Project Cost:	\$2,900,000
Funding Already Secured:	(\$800,000)
FY2014 State Funding Request:	<u>(\$2,100,000)</u>
Project Deficit:	\$0

Funding Details:

A 2012 state grant provided design funding.

Detailed Project Description and Justification:

This project will upgrade the local road that serves the Girdwood Community Center and Library. Improvements are expected to include a new road base, pavement, storm drainage, pedestrian facilities, traffic calming, and street lighting. The scope will be developed during the design process which includes significant public involvement.

The project has not started. State grant funding is proposed. This project is one of Girdwood's highest priority transportation projects. This road has never been built to current standards. The recently completed public facilities will create an increase in traffic volume for this road.

The grant funding may be used for utility work, obtaining rights of way and easements, and any work associated with upgrading the roadway and its amenities. A summary of the project budget is provided below:

Design	\$ 700,000
ROW/Utilities	\$ 100,000
Construction	\$2,100,000

Project Timeline:

Design, easement and utility expenditures are expected to occur in 2013 and 2014. Construction expenditures will occur in 2014 and/or 2015 if additional funding is acquired.

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

Girdwood Road Board

Grant Recipient Contact Information:

Name: Gary Jones
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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



Girdwood Volunteer Fire Department

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A non-profit corporation Tax ID 92-0164627

Dear Legislator:

Thank you for your generous support of the Girdwood Volunteer Fire Department in past legislative sessions. Attached is our current proposed State of Alaska appropriation for the reconstruction and expansion of Fire Station 41. This appropriation is vital in providing our continued service to the community of Girdwood, the outlying communities of Turnagain Arm, and the public on the Seward Highway Corridor.

Executive Summary

The Girdwood Fire Department is requesting State of Alaska funding to reconstruct, expand and modernize the current Fire Station 41 with:

- o Drive-Through Apparatus Bays
- o Dormitory Facilities
- o Training Area Expansion
- o Decontamination Facilities
- o ADA Conforming Restrooms
- o Vehicle and Equipment Storage
- o Hose Tower

The projected cost of this construction is \$5,750,000.

Project Description

The reconstruction of Fire Station 41 will expand the building and replace the inefficient and outdated portion of the structure built in the late 1970's. The new structure will feature a two floor design.

The new first floor will consist of larger "drive-through" apparatus bays. Drive-through bays improve the safety of firefighters and the general public by eliminating the possibility of backup accidents. Backing large fire apparatus is a high frequency, high risk activity that can be eliminated with proper engineering. The design is critical due to

our proximity to the adjacent community center, library and preschool learning center. The newly constructed, larger bays will allow apparatus and equipment currently stored outside to be brought indoors, with space created for future apparatus. Larger drive-through bays will also improve response times of emergency units to critical calls.

The second floor in the design will house our training room, four dormitories, kitchen, and administrative offices. Modern sleeping quarters will allow our station to have on-site responders twenty-four hours a day. The new construction will bring our entire station up to both Federal and Municipal Building Codes, which include: OSHA, NFPA, and ADA requirements.

Overall, this project encompasses 8,300 square feet of reconstruction and renovation. The new Station 41 is a managed, long-term solution, expected to meet the needs of our growing community for the next thirty years.

Department Services

Established in 1962, the Girdwood Volunteer Fire Department serves and protects a large and diverse area that includes private, State, and Federal Lands and facilities. Typical fire and emergency medical responses include structure fires, motor vehicle crash responses, wildland fires, and remote rescues. The Girdwood Fire Department maintains primary coverage for the town of Girdwood and sixty miles of the Seward Highway along Turnagain Arm. There are over 2,800 residents and 1,658 homes in our service area. As the primary emergency response agency, our department is known for self-reliance and an excellent training program. Our department works with other agencies in coordinated response efforts, from State Forestry, State Parks, and the Alaska State Troopers. A properly prepared and equipped Station 41 that can actively engage in an all-hazard response profile benefits the entire State of Alaska.

Today, the Girdwood Fire Department has forty-seven active volunteer personnel and five full-time officers. These personnel are dedicated, well-trained and talented. An important service in the community is the education offered by the Girdwood Fire Department. Community EMT I, II, and III classes, as well as Firefighter and CPR training classes are offered on a regular basis. These classes are accepted for use by degree seeking individuals in the University of Alaska Fire and Emergency Service programs.

The reconstructed Station 41 will not only affect the lives of those dependent on the quality of response, but also those who rely on the fire department for career betterment. These individuals are Alaska's future Health Care Providers, Firefighters, and Military personnel.

Financial Need

The Girdwood Fire Department operates as a combination volunteer and paid department. Volunteer emergency medical technicians and firefighters work and train alongside paid officers and administrators to provide a high level of professional service. Our annual budget, derived from property taxation is approximately \$660,000 per year.

The budget covers personnel costs, equipment maintenance and training, leaving little money for capital projects.

An appropriation from the State of Alaska is needed to fund the reconstruction project.

Community Benefit

The Fire Station 41 reconstruction is well-planned, and will support long term fire and emergency response needs of the community of Girdwood. These necessary station improvements are designed to improve response times to critical calls in Girdwood and the Seward Highway. Our volunteer development and community safety programs will benefit from new and increased classroom space. Dorm rooms will provide community volunteers living in the extended area with the ability to easily spend the night at the station. Dorms will increase firefighter participation in the community, as well as reinforce incentive for our current 24-hour, on-call response capabilities. Additionally, a fully modern facility will make a direct investment in the infrastructure of Alaska. Our volunteers will train in a fully professional environment, readying them for 21st century careers in the Alaskan economy.

As the Station 41 reconstruction prepares the Girdwood Fire Department to meet the needs and challenges of the future, the benefits will have wide ranging impacts. The community of Girdwood will continue to benefit from continued and reduced insurance ratings - lowering the cost of home owner's insurance and making the bedroom communities of Anchorage valuable, safe and livable. The acres of Chugach State Park, harboring natural resources and enjoyment for those who use them, will continue to receive priority care. Every Alaskan traveling the narrow corridor of Seward Highway on Turnagain Arm will rest assured that professional response capability is sustained and never compromised.

Thank you for your consideration in helping our community and our firefighters, emergency responders and volunteers.

William Chadwick

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