

Wildland Fire Engine Replacement Phase Four of Six**FY2014 Request:****\$500,000****Reference No:****33955****AP/AL:** Appropriation**Project Type:** Life / Health / Safety**Category:** Public Protection**Location:** Statewide**House District:** Statewide (HD 1-40)**Impact House District:** Statewide (HD 1-40)**Contact:** Jean Davis**Estimated Project Dates:** 07/01/2013 - 06/30/2018 **Contact Phone:** (907)465-2422**Brief Summary and Statement of Need:**

Eight wildland fire engines will be replaced in road accessible protection areas. Engines are essential for responding to wildland fires and meeting the Division of Forestry's core service of protecting values from wildland fire. Overall, the division responds to an average of 400+ wildland fires/year, primarily in high value urban interface areas. Replacement of fire engines decreases the reliance on older engines, increases the margin of safety for fire fighters, and increases reliable, fast response in critical populated response areas. This project supports the department mission of mitigating the threat to the public from natural hazards including wildland fires.

Funding:	FY2014	FY2015	FY2016	FY2017	FY2018	FY2019	Total
Gen Fund	\$500,000						\$500,000
Total:	\$500,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$500,000

<input type="checkbox"/> State Match Required	<input type="checkbox"/> One-Time Project	<input type="checkbox"/> Phased - new	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Phased - underway	<input type="checkbox"/> On-Going
0% = Minimum State Match % Required		<input type="checkbox"/> Amendment	<input type="checkbox"/> Mental Health Bill	

Operating & Maintenance Costs:

	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Staff</u>
Project Development:	0	0
Ongoing Operating:	0	0
<u>One-Time Startup:</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Totals:	0	0

Prior Funding History / Additional Information:**Project Description/Justification:****WHAT IS THE ISSUE OR PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED?**

The Division of Forestry provides wildland fire protection to Alaskans across the heavily populated areas of the state particularly along the road corridors. The critical component to quick response times and successful initial attack of wildland fires is a fire engine fleet that is well maintained, safe, and built for the wildland fire environment. The Division of Forestry has been very successful in initial attack (greater than 90% success rate) using its engine fleet; however this fleet continues to age and requires greater maintenance and replacement of outdated safety features. It is essential that the state maintain equipment to industry standards in order to provide reliable response capability, limit liability, and ensure public and fire fighter safety. This project will be the fourth capital request in six years with the intention of building a modern fire engine fleet that can then be replaced over time through the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities's (DOTPF) State Equipment Fleet program.

WHAT IS THE SCOPE OF WORK TO BE PERFORMED?

This project will replace eight wildland fire trucks (engines). This will include three Type 4 (medium size) fire engines and five Type 6/7 (light size) fire engines. The Type 6/7 engines provide quick response and maneuverability as well as the capability of patrolling long distances in the division's protection areas. Engine crewmembers often provide the first on-scene evaluation of values at risk, potential fire behavior, additional resources needed, and mobile communications. Type 4 engines provide additional crewmembers (up to five); up to 750 gallons of water with fire suppressant foam, and provide additional equipment that can be used to keep potentially large fires at their minimum acreage.

The Division of Forestry has developed a long term engine replacement plan designed to meet increasing maintenance and operational costs determined by DOTPF. The engine specifications have been designed to meet National Fire Protection Association standards.

This project will provide engines to Copper River, Fairbanks, Tok, Kenai, and Mat-Su areas.

These engines will assist Forestry in providing wildland fire protection throughout the state but particularly along roaded areas and therefore to meet the division's mission of serving Alaskans through forest management and wildland fire protection. These engines are critical firefighting resources for the department which has responsibility to mitigate the threat from natural hazards including wildfires.

WHAT RESULTS WILL BE ACHIEVED AND/OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED?

The results of this project will be effective initial attack by containing at least 90% of the fires in the critical populated areas of the state. This will be accomplished using the fire trucks procured with the past three capital requests and those from this project funding.

WHY IS THIS PROJECT NEEDED NOW – WHAT IS THE IMPACT OF REMAINING STATUS QUO?

Maintenance costs on outdated equipment increase proportionate to age and use. Engines needing replacement have outdated technology and deteriorating utility bodies. In working with or directly in support of local fire departments, the cooperative effort benefits the public with improved service, greater reliability, and successful engine response to wildland fire.

Engine replacement requires lead time and planning as the vehicles are manufactured by specialty contractors. Engines must be ordered as far as a year in advance. The Division of Forestry is the primary engine response agency for the roaded areas. Alaska continues to increase in population, residents have a propensity to build in both remote and urban fire prone areas, and fire seasons are starting earlier with increased intensity and prolonged duration.

WHAT ALTERNATIVES WERE CONSIDERED TO SOLVE THE ISSUE OR PROBLEM, AND WHY WERE THEY NOT SELECTED?

One alternative considered was not replacing these engines as they age but continue to use them into the future. This alternative was not selected as this is not cost effective for the State and will increase the risk of failure over time. These engines require expensive maintenance as they age due

to the heavy use they receive working fires. While the up-front costs are high for these engines, the long-term savings in maintenance cost and safety will offset the initial costs.

WHAT ACCOMPLISHMENTS HAVE BEEN ACHIEVED WITH PRIOR YEAR FUNDING?

Phase One: 9 engines purchased
 Phase Two: 8 engines purchased
 Phase Three: 11 engines purchased

SPECIFIC SPENDING DETAIL:

<u>LINE ITEM</u>	<u>DOLLAR AMOUNT</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>
Personal Services	\$ 10,000	Technician time for production oversight (2 mo) (10-9489)
Travel	\$ 8,000	Two inspection trips to factory
Services	\$ 10,000	Striping and additional services
Commodities	\$ 772,000	Fire truck purchase & delivery
Capital Outlay	\$ 0	
Grants	\$ 0	
PROJECT TOTAL	\$800,000	

Project Support:

Continued support from the Alaska State Fire Chiefs Association, Interior Fire Chiefs Association, Kenai Peninsula, Mat/Su, Fairbanks North Star, and Denali Boroughs, 60+ local fire departments, and the general public who receive the benefit of increased wildland fire protection.

The State of Alaska Division of Forestry provides the primary engine support for wildland fire control for our fire suppression cooperators (Alaska Fire Service, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Park Service, U.S. Department of Defense, and local fire departments).