

Alaska Veterans and Pioneer Home Resident Lifts**FY2014 Request: \$212,000****Reference No: 56658****AP/AL:** Appropriation**Project Type:** Equipment / Commodities**Category:** Health/Human Services**Location:** Palmer (Palmer)**House District:** Matsu Areawide (HD 7-11)**Impact House District:** Matsu Areawide (HD 7-11)**Contact:** Jennifer Klein**Estimated Project Dates:** 07/01/2013 - 06/30/2018**Contact Phone:** (907)465-1870**Brief Summary and Statement of Need:**

This project will fund ten additional Maxisky ceiling lifts that will be permanently installed in resident rooms and provide the best safety for residents and staff. The Alaska Veterans and Pioneer Home in Palmer is admitting residents with the highest level of care. Many of the residents are heavier due to the greater occurrence of obesity in the senior population. These additional lifts are needed to address this special population.

Funding:	<u>FY2014</u>	<u>FY2015</u>	<u>FY2016</u>	<u>FY2017</u>	<u>FY2018</u>	<u>FY2019</u>	<u>Total</u>
Gen Fund	\$212,000						\$212,000
Total:	\$212,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$212,000

<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
One-Time Startup:	0	
Totals:	0	0

Prior Funding History / Additional Information:**Project Description/Justification:**

The Alaska Veterans and Pioneer Home provides care to Alaskan seniors. Unfortunately many of these senior residents have mobility issues. These residents typically require the use of mechanical patient lifts for movement, repositioning and transfers.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the injury rates to nurse aides, attendants and orderlies are the second highest in all industries and result in the highest days-away-from-work rate tracked by the Bureau of Labor. The typical injuries are to the shoulders and back due to the nature of repositioning and moving residents of various sizes and weights. In response, the Occupational Health and Safety Administration sponsored in 2012 a National Emphasis Program for Nursing and Residential Care Facilities to protect workers from serious safety and health hazards that are common in medical industries.

In 2009, the Alaska Veterans and Pioneer Home purchased and installed 12 ARJO Maxisky lifts. There was an immediate impact as the following year the nursing injury rate decreased by over 90 percent. However, the Alaska Veterans and Pioneer Home does not have enough of these lifts to meet current demand. This request is to purchase and install ten additional lifts. These lifts have

proven an immediate impact on resident and staff safety and contribute to lowering the staff injury rate and related workman's compensation costs. Additionally, these lifts would address the need to admit and care for bariatric residents as the lifts safely handle weights of up to 600 pounds.

We note that Providence Health System, the largest healthcare provider in Alaska, has used these lifts exclusively in their new facilities and expanded their use in existing facilities. Additionally, these lifts were nationally recognized as being the safest for residents and staff members in long term care facilities in the Official Journal of the American Association of Occupational Health Nurses.

Approximately \$50,000 of the cost will purchase the lifts with the remaining \$150,000 will be spent on the structural support and track system that these permanently affixed lifts require. The cost estimate was based on ARJO's current pricing for the lifts and the installation costs of the 2009 project adjusted for inflation. The request is for ARJO Maxisky lifts as the maintenance staff knows how to repair and maintain these lifts. Additionally, they have a battery system that is compatible with the lifts currently in use.

These lifts have proven an immediate impact on resident and staff safety and contribute to lowering the staff injury rate and related workman's compensation costs. In the event this funding is not secured, there is overwhelming evidence that our seniors and nursing staff who care for them could be at risk of injury.