

Agency: Commerce, Community and Economic Development**Grants to Named Recipients (AS 37.05.316)****Grant Recipient: Alaska Public Media****Federal Tax ID: 23-7394629****Project Title:****Project Type: Equipment and Materials**

Alaska Public Media - Public Affairs Programming

State Funding Requested: \$486,900**House District: Statewide (1-40)**

Future Funding May Be Requested

Brief Project Description:

Alaska Public Media requests \$486,900 to support enhanced public affairs production capability and necessary equipment modernization and replacement. The public affairs unit will produce broadcast coverage of hearings, events, forums, conferences and other public interest material, including the Indie Alaska video and online vignettes about Alaskans and their ways of life.

Funding Plan:

Total Project Cost:	\$786,900
Funding Already Secured:	(\$0)
FY2015 State Funding Request:	<u>(\$486,900)</u>
Project Deficit:	\$300,000

Detailed Project Description and Justification:

Alaska Public Media requests \$486,900 to support enhanced public affairs production capability and necessary equipment modernization and replacement. The public affairs unit will produce broadcast coverage of hearings, events, forums, conferences and other public interest material, including the Indie Alaska video and online vignettes about Alaskans and their ways of life. The technical improvements are critical to effectively delivering the enhanced content to Alaskans. Among the technical improvements covered in this request is a long-awaited FM radio translator to improve reception across South Anchorage and the Hillside.

1. Indie Alaska/Public Affairs Project

Planning, logistics, field production, editing and final production of Alaskans' stories through Indie Alaska digital and video program, plus weekly recording, editing and broadcast of timely and important public hearings, meetings, events, forums, conferences and lectures. Special coverage of entertainment, conferences, sporting events and other public interest content as warranted. The production team will travel to every region of Alaska to shoot Indie Alaska episodes, plus hearings and special events. Equipment will support remote broadcasts, both radio and TV, from anywhere we can connect to cell towers with sufficient bandwidth. This equipment will include cameras, audio gear, switchers, software, computers and other field gear.

2. FM Translator for South Anchorage

The Federal Communications Commission, after a lengthy delay, is issuing Construction Permits for FM translator applications submitted in 2003. We soon will have a valid permit to construct an FM translator to expand our coverage and signal strength in the South Anchorage area, where our current signal is unreliable because of terrain. This translator will greatly improve signal reception for KSKA radio in South Anchorage and the Hillside, where a high concentration of listeners

and donors now live.

3.Studio and TV production video monitors

The existing monitors are approaching 10 years old and are performing at approximately 65 percent of rated output. We estimate they have a 50 percent risk of breakdown in the next two years. New monitors not only will perform at 100 percent, but also will use 60 percent less power. The new equipment will show multiple images on a single monitor, allowing us to replace 15 monitors with only five.

4.ENCO FM automation system hardware

Automation systems have lowered operating costs substantially for both radio and television by decreasing personnel costs for operations and monitoring. The computer hardware for our FM automation system is now 5 years old and is at approximately 50 percent risk of failure within the next year. Such a failure would increase operating costs and diminish the quality of programming. As vendor software improves, new, more efficient hardware will be required to take advantage of the equipment.

5.HVAC control system renovation

The HVAC contactor control system is now more than 20 years old and upkeep is becoming more expensive and difficult. Repair parts for some of the system are no longer available, requiring "jury rig" repairs to keep it operational. The studio system control is no longer adequate to maintain consistent control. HVAC specialists recommend replacing all existing contactors and switches with new ones. The new system will allow more efficient operation of the HVAC system.

6.HVAC modifications for TV and FM rooms (transmitter cooling)

The existing system for both TV and FM is inadequate to keep the transmitters operating at optimum capability. Tube (FM) and transistor (TV) life are shortened by 20 percent to 50 percent without proper ventilation.

7.Video Security System

Multiple cameras viewable remotely will enhance the security of the Goose Bay Facility.

8.Repair Auxiliary FM Antenna Feed Line

The backup FM antenna is not usable at this time. Failure of the main antenna would either eliminate the signal entirely or reduce power. The cost of repairing the backup antenna can be reduced if combine it with other tower work.

9.New strobe lighting system for tower

The existing strobe system is constantly breaking down because of deterioration of parts and wiring. We spend approximately \$12,000/year for a crew from the Lower 48 to come up and fix it. This usually lasts 3 to 6 months before it starts having problems again. Although it usually remains operational and does not pose a threat to aircraft aviation, the equipment must be reported to the FAA as non-working. This will be the third strobe system installed on the tower with a 10-year life cycle.

10.Standby generator replacement

Our backup power generator at the Goose Bay site requires replacement. Its age and current condition pose a significant risk of catastrophic failure. The generator is critical in keeping the transmitters in operation during emergency situations.

11.Guy line anchor repair

A professional tower inspection this past summer produced a recommendation that guy lines holding in place our Goose

Bay tower, the tallest structure in Alaska, be repaired. This should be done by a firm specializing in this type of repair, which is recommended for proof of compliance.

12. Guy wire markers (aviation)

The orange cones that attach to the tower guy lines are an important aid to pilot recognition. Over the years some have been blown off by strong winds. Enough are missing now that replacement is warranted.

Project Timeline:

This project is part of an integrated three-year capital improvement plan. The centerpiece is enhanced public affairs remote production capability; this project will be conducted over three years beginning in FY2015. Technical and equipment improvements will be made over the five-year grant period and will be bunched appropriately for maximum efficiency and effectiveness -- e.g., all tower work will be done at the same time to use specialized work crews efficiently.

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

Alaska Public Media

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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