

**Alaska Association of Chiefs of Police - State of Alaska
Police Policy Manual Project**

**FY2024 Request: \$0
Reference No: AMD 65083**

AP/AL: Appropriation **Project Type:** Life / Health / Safety
Category: Transportation **Recipient:** Alaska Chiefs of Police
Location: Statewide **House District:** Statewide (HD 1 - 40)
Impact House District: Statewide (HD 1 - 40) **Contact:** Catherine Reardon
Estimated Project Dates: 07/01/2023 - 06/30/2028 **Contact Phone:** (907)465-2506

Brief Summary and Statement of Need:

Preserve general funds for savings and fiscal stability.

Funding:	FY2024	FY2025	FY2026	FY2027	FY2028	FY2029	Total
1004 Gen Fund							\$0
Total:	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

<input type="checkbox"/> State Match Required	<input type="checkbox"/> One-Time Project	<input type="checkbox"/> Phased - new	<input type="checkbox"/> Phased - underway	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ongoing
0% = Minimum State Match % Required		<input checked="" 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	0
Totals:	0	0

Prior Funding History / Additional Information:

Project Description/Justification:

Challenge:

The State of Alaska is extremely large and diverse. Within its borders are many different law enforcement agencies, varying in size from a single-officer department to larger agencies with hundreds of personnel. Additionally, small rural Alaskan agencies are often served by Village Police Officers, Village Public Safety Officers, Alaska State Troopers, or a combination of all three. Despite the broad range of individual agency budget limitations or constraints, all face the same issue, an ever-increasing risk of liability from poorly executed police-related activities.

With police reform in full swing, Alaska is finding itself falling behind in its preparations to weather increased legal scrutiny, placing our communities and police agencies in jeopardy. Not only do small departments not have the funding to stay up on case law, they also do not have the expertise to write sound legal and defensible policies to reduce the likelihood that an officer will make a mistake, resulting in harm to a community member and the possibility that the municipality or village will be sued.

One key to the delivery of professional police services is having sound policies and relevant training in place. Fortunately, there is a proven, well-established, and highly respected company that uses content and technology to provide constitutionally sound policies that comply with federal and state laws and deliver timely policy

updates as laws and best practices change, allowing any sized department to practically have a team of experts at their fingertips. Alaska Association of Chiefs of Police (AACOP) and the Alaska Municipal League (AML) desire to partner with a qualified company to provide a standardized policy manual that would be a reliable foundation for all Alaskan police agencies, leaders, and communities, to assist with the smartest and safest decisions possible while considering the unique needs and circumstances of individual communities. We have attached a description of the value that a such policy development and deployment company brings in producing a state-level solution for our Alaska communities.

The harsh reality of this dilemma is this: without good policies and procedures many agencies are just one step away from a lawsuit that could irrevocably damage the town, village, or city -- and Alaska's public safety -- for many decades. We sincerely believe that if Alaska had one policy manual developed that could be shared with EVERY department, big and small, it would be a game changer. There is also a national movement to require police agencies to become accredited.

Adopting a policy manual that leads to accreditation puts Alaskan law enforcement on the right path. We realize that development and deployment costs will be too high for any one agency to endure. Therefore, AACOP and the Alaska Municipal League are proposing the legislature support an initiative to develop a statewide policy for everyone to use.

Solution:

We propose an Alaska-specific Police Policy Manual written and deployed in our communities for approximately \$550,000.00. This grouped approach and implementation represents a savings of \$550,000, which makes it a much more affordable proposition than if each police department or community took this on individually. Once this policy is built, every department can adapt it for their specific jurisdiction and application. The base model, then, can still be responsive to local needs and authorities, even as it improves overall our delivery of public safety. The request includes funding for training and outreach to communities. The entire process will include collaboration with the Alaska Police Standards Council and the Department of Public Safety, to ensure appropriate State input and engagement, resulting in the strengthening of our public safety system.

Request:

AML and the AACOP Board of Directors is requesting a legislative grant of \$550,000 to launch the development of a state-wide police policy manual AACOP and the Alaska Municipal League will partner together to bring every agency into the discussion and, with your financial support, make this project a reality.

This is a one-time request, made sustainable for continued use with each local agency paying a small user-fee and/or implementation fee, appropriate to their ability, that would help them ensure their department remains at a standard that is defensible and sustainable in today's legal environment. AML will administer the grant on behalf of AACOP, and be the project manager for delivery, in its role to assist the AACOP and member jurisdictions.

PROJECT TIMELINE

Once funding is secure the process for bidding the contract will occur. This will happen immediately within 2 months of funding. Once this occurs a contractor will begin writing the Alaska only police manual. This will be a collaborative effort

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with select agencies representatives participating. Once this is complete within in 6 months then the implementation phase will start. This part will take about a year with full implementation within 2 years.