

Patrol Vessel, Motor Replacement, and Off-Highway Vehicle Replacement

FY2024 Request: \$1,970,000
Reference No: 64607

AP/AL: Appropriation **Project Type:** Equipment / Commodities
Category: Public Protection
Location: Statewide **House District:** Statewide (HD 1-40)
Impact House District: Statewide (HD 1-40) **Contact:** Pam Halloran
Estimated Project Dates: 07/01/2023 - 06/30/2028 **Contact Phone:** (907)465-5501

Brief Summary and Statement of Need:

The department will replace vessels, motors, and off-highway vehicles to directly support recreational boating safety patrols, emergency responses, as well as enhance proactive wildlife patrols and investigations through increased field presence.

Funding:	<u>FY2024</u>	<u>FY2025</u>	<u>FY2026</u>	<u>FY2027</u>	<u>FY2028</u>	<u>FY2029</u>	<u>Total</u>
1004 Gen Fund	\$1,970,000						\$1,970,000
Total:	\$1,970,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,970,000

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

Prior Funding History / Additional Information:

Project Description/Justification:
Patrol Vessel and Motor Replacement

Medium class patrol vessels are typically used by Troopers who patrol alone or in very small groups and are crucial for patrol activities. Reliable equipment assures Trooper safety while on extended patrols in rural areas.

The Alaska Wildlife Troopers operate 59 vessels of various sizes from small open skiffs to the 156' P/V Stimson that operates in the Bering Sea. Additionally, the department operates small inflatables. The department has 12 medium-class vessels which typically range from 27' to 36' in length and are intended for coastal multi-day patrols. That inventory includes:

Location	Year Built	Vessel	Length	Replacement Year
Seward	1998	Sea Warden	29'	2024
Valdez	1998	Bering*	29'	2023
Hoonah	1999	Compliance	27'	2024

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Juneau	2003	Sentry	31'	2025
Petersburg	2003	Moen*	31'	2023
Homer	2004	Augustine	34'	2025
Sitka	2005	Courage	33'	2026
Prince of Wales	2007	Gowtukan	32'	2026
Cordova	2009	Sound Justice*	31'	2023
Ketchikan	2012	Loyalty	32'	
Kodiak	2019	Mavrik (P/V AudreyAnn)	32'	
Whittier	2021	P/V Arlluk	36'	

** Build is currently underway with prior year project funding or port security grant funding with state match.*

Medium class vessels typically remain in exceptional shape structurally but need to undergo motor replacements to keep them fully operational for emergency response. To maintain reliability and reduce maintenance costs, the motors on medium class vessels are replaced after they reach five years in age and over 2,500 hours. The department will replace motors on medium class vessels to keep the vessels fully operational.

More than half of the medium class vessel fleet was built prior to 2005. It is becoming cost prohibitive to maintain or rely on them to function appropriately for emergency responses. The department has embarked on an equipment refreshment plan specific to the medium class vessels. Replacement vessels will be built beginning in early FY2024 for a completion date to fall in late FY2025 or early FY2026. If the department does not continue to update and refresh its patrol vessel fleet, the existing vessels will continue to age, corrode, experience more frequent issues, and cost much more to operate until they eventually are no longer serviceable.

Off-Highway Vehicles

Alaska Wildlife Troopers and Alaska State Troopers utilize a variety of off-highway vehicles including small boats, all-terrain vehicles (ATVs), and snow machines to conduct resource protection, search and rescue, and law enforcement response activities. Off-highway vehicles available to troopers for immediate response during all seasonal conditions is imperative to accomplishing the department's mission. Boats, ATVs, and snow machines are needed for new positions.

Examples: The Nome post has a total of four snowmobiles, the newest of which is approximately 8-10 years old. Due to the corrosive, salt-water environment, and harsh winter conditions, it is a challenge to keep any kind of machinery from suffering environmental damage over time. The Kotzebue post has a total of five snowmobiles, the newest of which is approximately seven to nine years old. Kotzebue is also on the coast and considered a salt-water environment with even harsher winter conditions. There is an extensive network of winter trails in both regions which are heavily used by residents to travel between communities, to hub communities for supplies, and into unpopulated areas for traditional hunting and gathering needs. These winter trails are also used to import alcohol

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and drugs into bush communities to avoid law enforcement interdiction efforts at the airports as well as to flee law enforcement apprehension in smaller communities. Troopers in these posts rely nearly 100 percent on air transport to visit villages, conduct investigations and arrest offenders. Frequently weather delays can cause troopers to take days to respond to the most heinous of crimes.

Troopers having new, reliable snow machines and four-wheelers will increase their presence along the trail systems to better combat the illegal importation of alcohol and drugs, which fuel nearly 100 percent of the crime in rural areas of the state. They will have a reliable, secondary option to respond to many communities when inclement weather may prevent response via aircraft. Troopers will have a means to assist with search and rescue and the ability to locate fugitives that have fled to nearby areas outside of walking distance from a community. This equipment is typically used by troopers who patrol alone or in very small groups.

Quality equipment is crucial to search and rescue activities, resource management, and trooper safety.