

Agency: Commerce, Community and Economic Development

Grants to Named Recipients (AS 37.05.316)

Grant Recipient: Slana Community Corporation

Federal Tax ID: 920124109

Project Title:

Project Type: New Construction and Land Acquisition

Slana Community Corporation - Building for Emergency Equipment Storage

State Funding Requested: \$850,000

House District: 36 / R

Future Funding May Be Requested

Brief Project Description:

Emergency equipment storage building

Funding Plan:

Total Project Cost:	\$850,000
Funding Already Secured:	(\$0)
FY2025 State Funding Request:	<u>(\$850,000)</u>
Project Deficit:	\$0

Detailed Project Description and Justification:

The Slana Community Corporation respectfully requests your consideration to present a community grant of \$850,000 for our Nonprofit Organization's proposed project before the Alaska Legislature since the Community of Slana is without heated emergency vehicle storage rendering the Community's fire engines inoperative during winter.

The Slana Community Corporation respectfully requests the Alaska Legislature fund the construction of a dedicated emergency service facility in Slana, Alaska. At this point, the Slana Community Corporation is limited to the financial constraint of Community Block Grant capped at \$850,000. Should the Alaska Legislature approve the Slana Community Corporation's request, the funds will be used to build a 60' x 40' x 40' heated garage with emergency services equipment storage and workspace. The garage will quarter one 3,500-gallon fire engine, one brush truck, and an ambulance while providing necessary space for emergency services maintenance equipment and emergency services gear.

The Alaska Legislature funding this project would provide a great year-around benefit to the Copper River and Upper Tanana Basins by having available Emergency Services vehicles, equipment and trained emergency services personnel available to adequately respond to medical and fire emergencies in the Copper River and Tanana River drainages.

Project Timeline:

Land has already been acquired. Building project will begin as soon as funding is available.

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

Slana Community Corporation

For use by Co-chair Staff Only:

**\$300,000
Approved**

Grant Recipient Contact Information:

Name:	Nathan Brown
Title:	President
Address:	PO Box 861 Slana, Alaska 99586
Phone Number:	(907)259-4250
Email:	natebrown87@gmail.com

Has this project been through a public review process at the local level and is it a community priority? Yes No

Slana Community Corporation

Grant Proposal

Emergency Service Facility

Executive Summary

The Slana Community Corporation requires \$850,000 to build a basic but adequate heated storage building necessary for volunteers to provide immediate fire protection and immediate emergency medical services to the Upper Copper River drainage along the Glenn Highway Tok Cut-off and the southern portion of the Upper Tanana River basin especially along the eastern portion of the Nabesna Road, east of Mile Post 24, within the Upper Tanana drainage. The Slana Community Corporation's Emergency Services building will be used as the Slana Station firehouse for Gakona Volunteer Fire Department and Tok Area EMS. Our community currently lacks the space necessary to store and maintain our emergency service vehicles. Access to these services is limited in our remote location, and this facility would allow for these services to be readily available to many members of this region of our great state.

A future, additional \$850,000 in order to equip the basic heated emergency services vehicle storage with features that will improve Slana Station's ability to conserve energy, conduct fire protection and emergency medical operation in case of power failure, safely refill fire engines with firefighting water during sub-zero temperatures, provide an area for firefighting and EMS training, store firefighting and EMS turn-out gear, serve as an initially equipped incident command center, as well as improve radio communications with first responders, MatCom Dispatch, Fairbanks Dispatch, Tazlina Forestry Dispatch.

The Slana Community Corporation's responsibilities increased to such an extent over the last 36 years, that we cooperated with Tok Area EMS and Gakona Volunteer Fire Department bringing to the Slana Community emergency medical services and fire protection. The Slana Community Corporation recruited and organized volunteer medics and firefighters in collaboration with Tok Area EMS and the Gakona Volunteer Fire Department. Emergency service facilitates the well-being and provides opportunities to homeowners, especially young homeowners with families previously not possible. Slana has a population of approximately 100, with a large percentage of the community being over 65 years old.

Our proposed nonprofit organization project will directly contribute to our mission of addressing our community's needs by allowing us to:

- Achieve our goal of storing and maintaining our community's emergency response vehicles, by constructing a dedicated powered and heated building fully equipped with the necessary resources to house our EMS and Fire response service vehicles year-round, to keep these vehicles and equipment fully operational and responsive, and to procure the space and resources necessary to successfully coordinate and manage our local emergency service capabilities.
- Promptly respond to emergency situations whether it be a medical emergency, a structural fire, or a wildland fire.
- Ensure the continuation, efficiency, growth, and longevity of our emergency response teams.
- Provide a benefit to members of our community and the surrounding areas that would otherwise not be available or would be hours away, where time is especially critical in life-threatening emergency situations.

The estimated cost of implementation for our proposed heated emergency vehicle storage project is \$850,000. The State of Alaska's investment will assure the necessary funding needed to implement our project and to help ensure that medical and fire response services are available to residents in the rural areas of our district, whom without our corporation involvement and community participation, would otherwise not inherit the benefit of these services. This project will not only help the community members of Slana, Alaska, but all the way up and down the Tok Cutoff Highway, which in turn we believe is a benefit to our residents and the great state of Alaska as a whole.

Organizational Background

Slana Community Corporation:

Was established as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization in 1987 to directly address the issue of constructing necessary roads and access points to individual properties, as well as maintaining the quality and commutability of the roads in our community.

Our scope of involvement in the community:

- Maintenance & storage of necessary road equipment such as a grader, a front-end loader, and a plow truck, as well as two fire engines and an ambulance.
- Hiring equipment operators to perform equipment maintenance and updates, road maintenance and snow removal services, including plowing of community members' driveways to allow year-round access to their properties.
- Maintenance of the community building and garage that stores the equipment necessary to perform the above specified functions.
- Providing the space needed for community events or meetings, including, but limited to usage of our building for training events for our locally created volunteer EMS and Fire response teams, and National Park Service meetings regarding work that they perform in the Wrangell St. Elias National Park and Preserve, which borders our community.
- Monthly meetings to address issues and concerns of the community where all community members and outside interests are welcome to attend and participate.

Since its inception in the 1980's, soon after the federal government opened the last federal homesteading project in Slana, Alaska, the Slana Community Corporation has fulfilled the task of road maintenance, and much more. The Slana Community Corporation has been responsible for the construction of several critical roads in the community, the maintenance of these roads, as well as working with outside organizations such as Alaska Power and Telephone, which now supplies electric service from Chistochina to Broken Bridge (Tok Cut-off Mile Post 91), as well as coordinating with Village Safe Water to provide the Slana Community with indoor plumbing and septic to better the quality of lives for all individuals in our community.

The key mission of the Slana Community Corporation has always been road infrastructure and maintenance. Road maintenance and snow clearing has continued successfully and ceaselessly since the corporation's beginnings in 1987.

In 1998, the first community corporation building was erected on 4 Mile Road in Slana. Summit Consulting was hired to implement the building and construction of the community corporation garage in 2014, complete with heating appliances and a well to provide community access to clean water.

In 2006 the corporation worked to bring electricity to the community via power lines running from a generator shed, which is now managed and maintained by Alaska Power & Telephone.

The corporation worked with the Village Safe Water Program sponsored by the State of Alaska, to install wells, septic systems, and indoor plumbing to all members of the community whom opted to receive such services. This project was completed in 2012.

A secondary access road called "2 Mile Road" was finished in 2018 to allow another access point for individuals living off 4 Mile Rd, as well as the roads connected to 4 Mile Rd: Ridge Rd, Cash Blvd, and Swamp Rd.

The corporation worked with the Bureau of Land Management and the Copper Valley Watershed Project in 2022 to successfully initiate the process of addressing an erosion issue on a local creek (Natat Creek) due to heavy springtime flooding. This issue threatens road access for an individual in our community and threatens a power pole providing electric service for that particular community member. Currently, a solution to this issue is thankfully underway due to the participation of these organizations.

In 2022, the corporation along with some community involvement banded together to confront an issue of two dilapidated bridges that were either in danger of being damaged and/or swept out or in the process of being swept away by heavy springtime flooding. This issue had threatened the only access points many individuals had to their properties and the corporation was able to successfully correct this problem.

The Slana Community Corporation is a well-rounded group of incredible individuals and upstanding members of the local community. The corporation takes a great sense of pride in its past accomplishments and successes. We are all enamored to be able call this great little community our home.

Statement of Need

The community of Slana, Alaska, and the surrounding areas lack the resources and sufficient garage space necessary to provide truly sustainable and effective emergency services to the members of our local rural area. Slana, Alaska is located within a broad plain, between the Alaska Range and the Wrangell Mountains, at the confluence of the Slana and Copper River. Slana is approximately 65 miles southwest of Tok, and 80 miles northeast of Glennallen, at mile 60 of the Tok Cutoff Highway. This highway, along with Nabesna Road, are long desolate stretches of road, especially during the winter months.

The Slana Community Corporation, since its beginnings in 1987, has always made a priority of maintaining the local roads throughout the year, yet recently has taken on the task of giving the community the benefit of access to the emergency response services.

Our corporation currently leases property from the Bureau of Land Management, on which sits our quaint community building and a 2-bay garage. Our corporation owns and utilizes 3 road maintenance vehicles: a grader, front-end loader, and a plow truck for maintaining the roads. For many years, our corporation has attempted to balance the maintenance and storage of these vehicles along with 3 additional emergency response vehicles (ambulance, fire tanker, and a brush fire truck). This has proven to be not only difficult, but impossible with our current infrastructure.

Our corporation does not receive much funding aside from an annual CAP grant of approximately \$25,000 each year. We have run into multiple instances with our road maintenance and emergency vehicles not starting, or hydraulic lines freezing up due to constantly rotating vehicles in and out of our current garage, based on which 2 out of 6 vehicles happen to take most priority at that given time. During the recent structural fire at the Midway store (Mile 61 of the Tok Cutoff), our volunteer fire team gathered four of its members at around 2:30am to respond to this fire. However, even though our team had arrived on scene within a timely manner, they had no choice but to wait to act until the Gakona Volunteer Fire Department showed up about 25 minutes later with their fire engine, due to our engine not being properly housed, rendering it unresponsive at times such as these. Our fire engines and ambulance have proven to be a vital need in this community. Our two firetrucks, which are currently stored outside in the winter, must be drained of all water to prevent freezing the tanks, pumps, and equipment, thus, rendering them inadequately dependable throughout the winter in the case of a fire-related emergency.

Our goal is to procure the investment necessary to provide the storage, resources and infrastructure required to maintain and continue these services. This would involve constructing a heated emergency service building that would function as the emergency vehicle garage for the EMS and Fire teams. The building would be either a metal or wood-frame building that would be fully insulated, and would require adequate space to house the vehicles, sufficient power capabilities including a 200-amp service panel, able to provide overhead lighting, electrical outlets, emergency exit signs, and three powered

overhead doors. It would also require two man-doors, a heating system with a fuel supply tank, fire extinguishers, smoke alarms, and fireproof storage lockers for volatile vehicle fluids and turnout gear.

The building would need to be constructed on a concrete slab to serve as the foundation, with considerations of the local permafrost conditions and the gross weight load of the emergency vehicles. Included in the slab would be several floor drains for underneath the emergency vehicles, and one for a potential future interior water storage tank. Our goal is to build a 40' wide, by 60' long building, with a peak height of around 40' to allow an adequate roof slope for snow shedding. Other considerations if funds allow, or potential future additions, would be a backup power generator, concrete bollards at each vehicle entry bay, and a potential well and septic system to serve a facility restroom/washroom, and to allow filling of the fire engine. A water storage tank would be an exceptional addition as well as an on-demand water heater, a utility sink, and a washer and dryer for decontamination of gear. These extra considerations are not completely necessary at this time, however, would be potential additions if funding allows. Otherwise, they would serve as future goals and considerations for this facility. Our main goal is a heated, powered storage building for our emergency response vehicles.

This objective would benefit both the community of Slana, Alaska, as well as the surrounding areas within roughly a 150-mile radius, potentially more. Our rural area is growing exponentially from a community-involvement perspective and would greatly benefit from the continuation of the services that the Slana Community Corporation has worked so diligently to make possible for all the incredible people our region.

Project Goals and Objectives

Goal: Provide the resources, space, and infrastructure necessary to store & maintain emergency service vehicles to successfully enable the continuation, growth, and efficiency of the current emergency response teams of Slana, Alaska.

Objective: Secure funding. Commence construction in summer of 2023. Construct a 40' x 60' x 40' heated, powered building with three (3) powered garage doors and three (3) storage bays that will quarter one ambulance, one brush fire engine, and one fire tanker, and allow for regular maintenance of these vehicles, as well as the proper space and storage needed to store emergency equipment and turnout gear and hold regular emergency response team trainings.

Main Objective Bullet Points:

- * Building - 40' wide, 60' long, 40' high
- * Poured concrete slab foundation suitable to hold 40,000 lbs. and withstanding permafrost
- * Floor drains in necessary locations (under vehicles & any water storage tanks)
- * 3 powered overhead doors (12' wide x 14' tall w/ R-25 insulation)
- * 2 man-doors
- * Fully insulated
- * Durable interior wall/ceiling covering
- * Boiler w/blower heat & boiler power wiring
- * 300 to 500-gallon heating fuel supply tank with piping and concrete containment walls
- * Electric service entrance cable from APT meter to facility breaker panel
- * 200A circuit breaker panel
- * Overhead lighting
- * Overhead lighting switches at each man door
- * 10 or more 110v receptacles
- * Fire extinguishers & smoke alarms
- * Flammable storage locker
- * Turnout gear storage lockers

Additional/Optional Objective Bullet Points if Funds Allow (or future additions to facility):

- * Concrete bollards at each vehicle entry bay
- * Water well adequate for filling fire engine
- * Septic system
- * On-demand water heater
- * Decontamination/Restroom/Washroom Room with sink, toilet, shower, eyewash station
- * Interior 3500-gallon water storage tank (or 3 separate 1000-gallon tanks raised on concrete or steel I-beam supports to allow gravity-fed filling of fire tanker)
- * Redundant heating system in case of primary heating system failure

- * Washing Machine, Dryer, Utility Sink
- * Additional Generator shed with 5kw Generator
- * Office & Storage/Training Room (potential 2nd floor – doored off and insulated)
- * Windows allowing view of horizon in all directions
- * Radio Communications for correspondence with dispatch and first responders

Methods and Strategies

Slana Emergency Services Building & Infrastructure:

Objective: Provide the resources, space, and infrastructure necessary to store & maintain emergency service vehicles to successfully enable the continuation, growth, and efficiency of the current emergency response teams of Slana, Alaska.

Methods:

The Slana Community Corporation will utilize voluntary, and SCC hired board and community member work, and potential contractor work to complete the initial clear cutting and ground leveling of the property where the building is to be constructed. The Slana Community Corporation will hire a certified contractor and necessary specialists to facilitate the intricate planning, oversight, and construction of a dedicated emergency services building. Contractors and specialists will be hired to do any necessary ground work and gravel work that is outside of SCC scope and capabilities, and to install an adequate concrete slab foundation, construct the building, perform installment of critical elements such as installing all electrical capabilities, including a 200 amp breaker box, overhead lights, switches, outlets, and all other electrical routing, the installment of a boiler system with all additional heating system elements, a supply fuel tank complete with concrete fuel containment walls, and powered overhead doors and man doors.

The Slana Community Corporation is currently corresponding with Heritage Contracting out of Delta Junction, Alaska to discuss the planning and implementation of this project, and to ensure that all necessary requirements are scrupulously followed, such as building code and standards, insurance considerations, and Davis-Bacon Wage requirements. Any and all contractors and specialists involved will coordinate with Nathan Brown (Slana Community Corporation President), Dave Tremko (Slana Community Corporation Vice President), Allen Swart (Slana Community Corporation Equipment Operator and Board Member), Ronald Paciorek (Slana EMS & Fire Dept. Lead), and other Slana Community Corporation board members to facilitate the implementation of the following:

Event 1: Clear cutting of trees and brush necessary to fit our proposed building within the preferred parameters of the property.

Estimated Date: May 29th, 2023

Projected Cost: TBD

Event 2: Leveling and grading of the grounds where the building will be erected & the import, distribution, and compaction of gravel.

Estimated Date: June 5th, 2023

Projected Cost: TBD

Event 3: Laying of the concrete to form a concrete slab that will serve as the foundation for the structure.

Estimated Date: June 12th, 2023

Projected Cost: TBD

Event 4: Construction of the main frame, structure, and entirety of the building, including overhead doors, man doors, and insulation.

Estimated Date: June 19th, 2023

Projected Cost: TBD

Event 5: Installation of electrical meter and supply running from power pole to facility.

Estimated Date: July 10th, 2023

Projected Cost: TBD

Event 6: Installation of all interior wiring, overhead lighting, switches, outlets, and powered overhead doors.

Estimated Date: July 17th, 2023

Projected Cost: TBD

Event 7: Installation of heating fuel supply tank, fuel containment walls, boiler heating system, and all necessary plumbing elements.

Estimated Date: July 31st, 2023

Projected Cost: TBD

Event 8: Installation of fire-proof storage lockers, turnout gear storage lockers.

Estimated Date: August 7th, 2023

Projected Cost: TBD

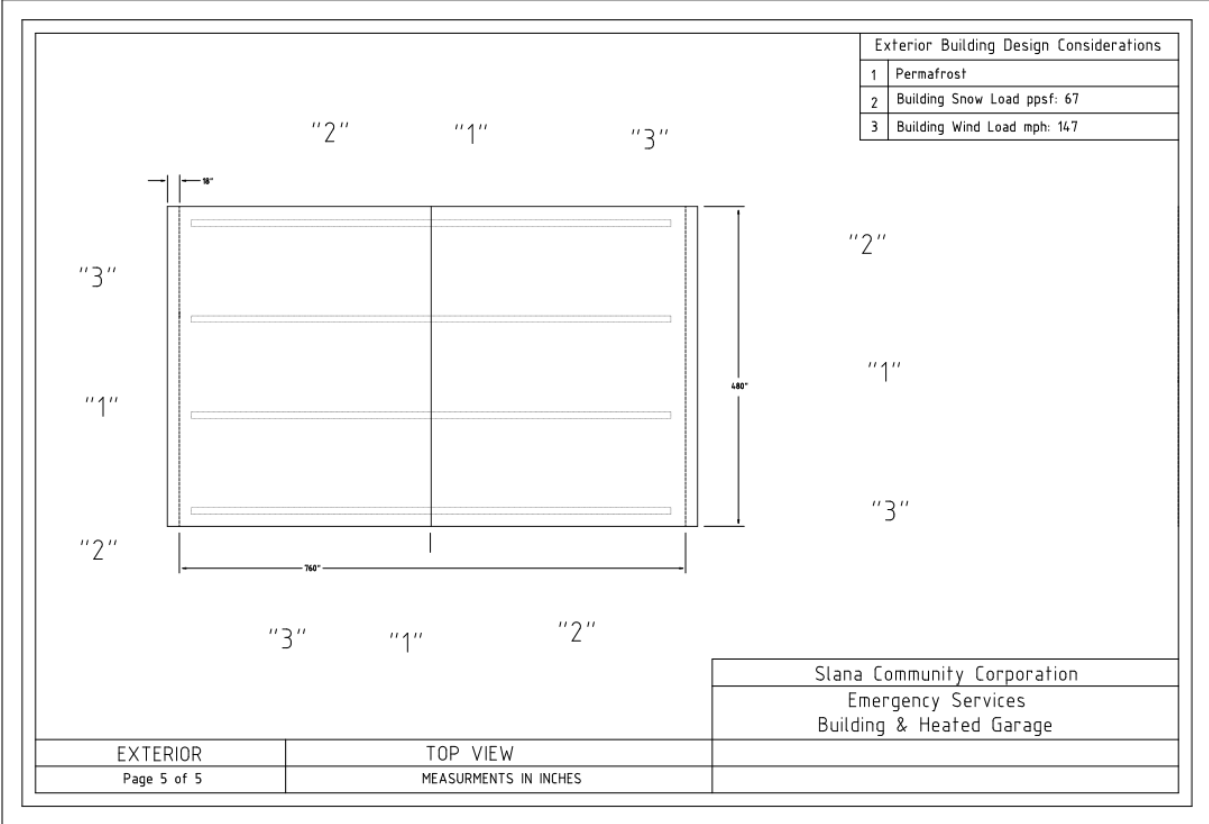
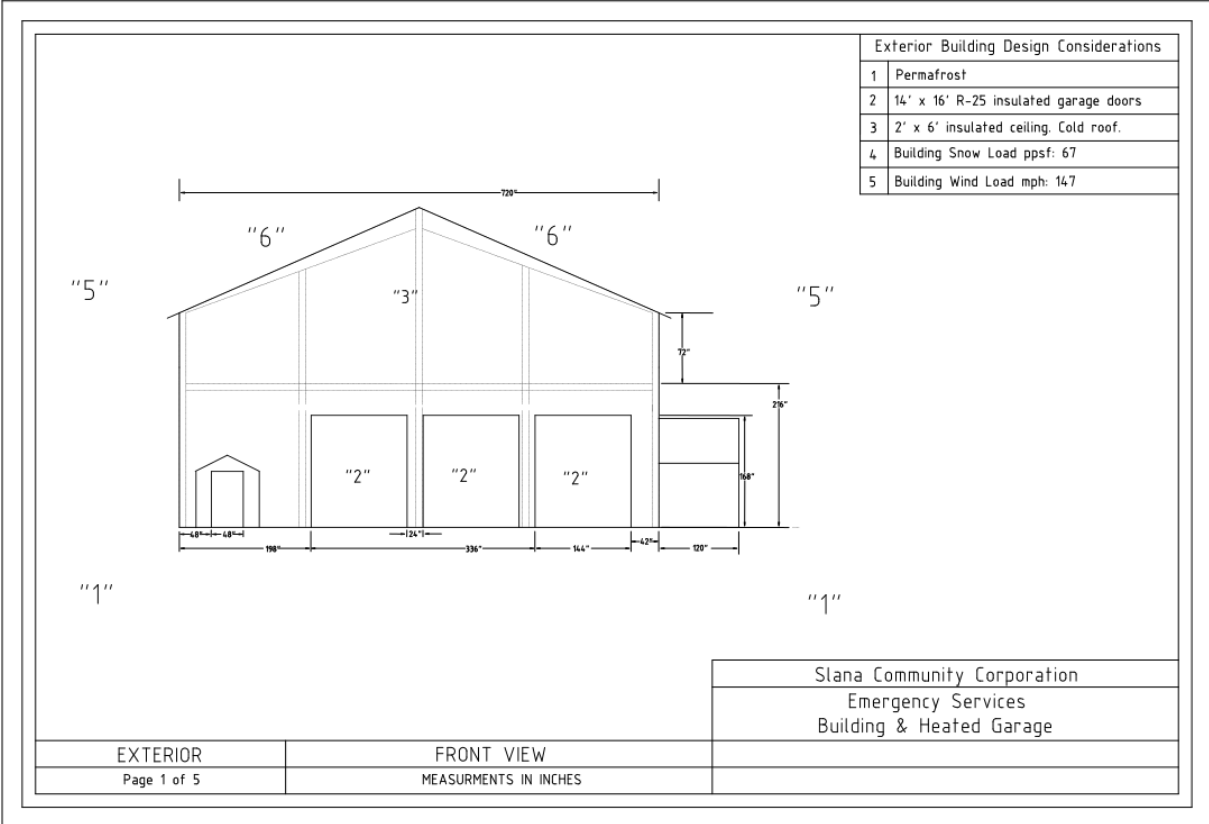
Event 9: Move emergency vehicles into building. At this point, the emergency services facility will be considered complete.

Estimated Date: August 10th, 2023

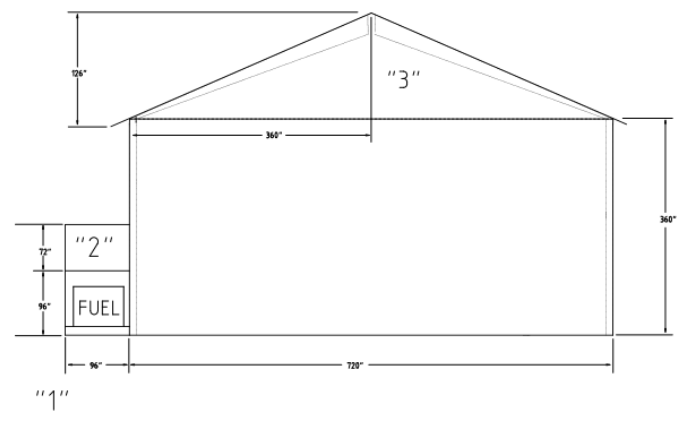
Projected Cost: N/A

Slana Community Corporation board members and program assistants will hold weekly check-in meetings to report on progress and developments and maintain a monthly budgeting report. This may require at least one part-time if not, a full-time paid position.

*Please refer to the following drawings which portray a visual representation of our overall project plan.



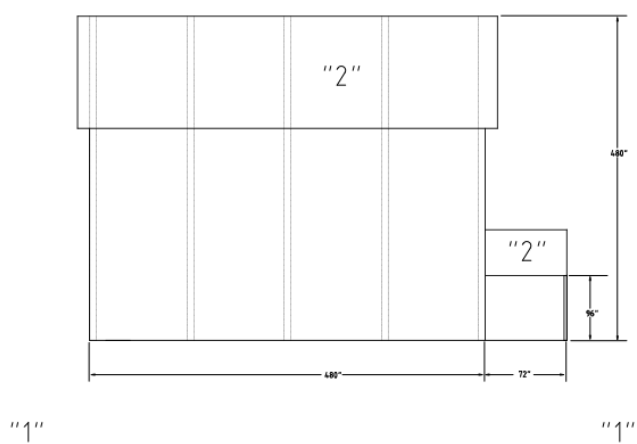
Exterior Building Design Considerations	
1	Permafrost
2	4/12 Pitch Roof
3	2' x 6' insulated ceiling. Cold roof.



Slana Community Corporation
Emergency Services
Building & Heated Garage

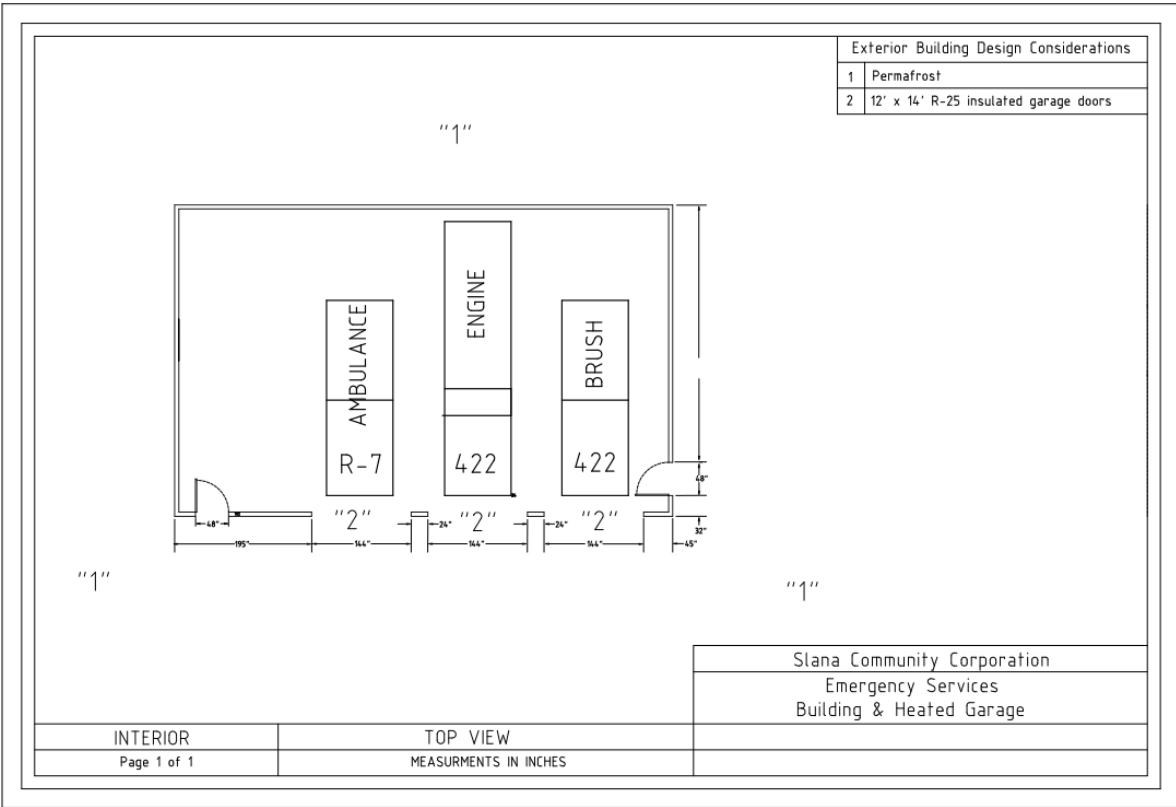
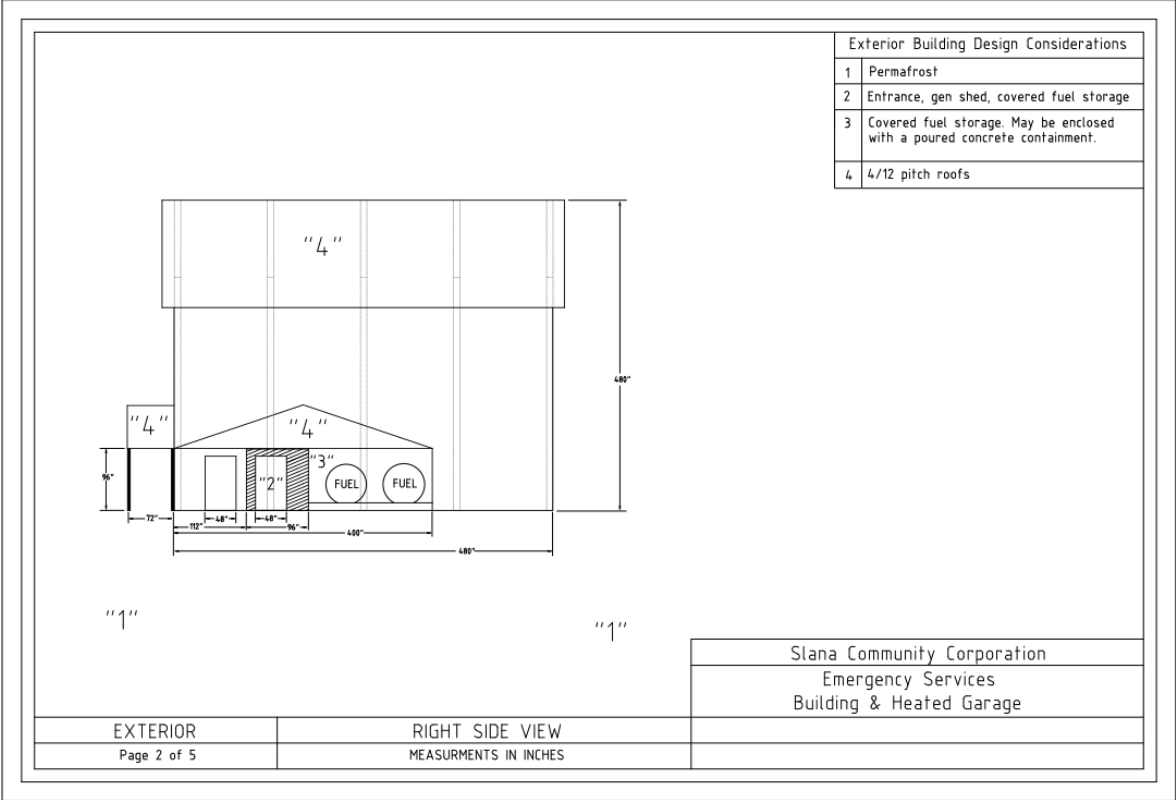
EXTERIOR	BACK VIEW	
Page 4 of 5	MEASUREMENTS IN INCHES	

Exterior Building Design Considerations	
1	Permafrost
2	4/12 pitch



Slana Community Corporation
Emergency Services
Building & Heated Garage

EXTERIOR	LEFT SIDE VIEW	
Page 3 of 5	MEASUREMENTS IN INCHES	



Plan of Evaluation

Measuring the success of the Slana Community Corporation Project:

During all points in the process of this project, weekly meetings between the corporation board members and program assistants will be held to share engagement data and concerns to ensure project success and to protect the State of Alaska's investment. Checkpoint meetings will be held in addition to the weekly meetings at crucial pivot points of the project. The board members and all those involved will keep in continuous contact with the contractors, workers, and specialists to gauge the progress of the work and discuss any pertinent information regarding the project objectives. Any obstacles or delays will be addressed in the weekly meetings and all necessary adjustments will be made to scheduling and/or alternative solutions proposed to solve any unforeseen problems.

A project progress tracker will be utilized by the board to efficiently visualize and track project progress. We will also maintain a monthly budgeting report to track the financial aspects of the project. Adjustments to scheduling and timeline will be made on an 'as needed' basis. Emergency meetings will be held in the event of any serious delay or issue in project progress or logistics to promptly address the necessary scheduling adjustment or project-halting issue, until a plan for solution is fully drafted.

Slana Community Corporation President Nathan Brown will work closely with the corporation Vice President Dave Tremko on maintaining the project progress tracker, monthly budgeting report, and any other implemented tracking system for full efficiency of managing the project's success. These individuals will also work with contractors and specialists to update project tasks, durations, and checkpoints before the beginning of each project objective and throughout the duration of the entire project. Our goal is success, and we will work endlessly to achieve it.

Budget Information

The Slana Community Corporation recognizes the importance of maintaining transparency and efficiency when it comes to funding a project which involves an investment from the State of Alaska. Our corporation is currently in correspondence with Heritage General Contracting based out of Delta Junction to discuss all necessary steps, planning, and budgeting information to ensure full implementation and success of this project. As we are in the beginning stages of this process, precise budgeting information is still limited, and estimates remain in a rough-draft state. Further details and breakdowns of projected costs will be thoroughly discussed with Heritage General Contracting as we continue to work through the planning process of constructing this emergency service facility.

With consideration of our remote location, Heritage General Contracting has estimated the cost to fully implement this project will be around \$350 per square foot of facility space. This estimate includes all overhead costs, planning and oversight, personnel and travel costs, equipment and supplies, fuel and transportation costs, including a small percentage of contingency budget to allow for unexpected expenditures. A building of 40' by 60' under this estimate, would amount to \$840,000, with an additional \$10,000 as a contingency budget, bringing our total request to \$850,000. Additional budget details and information can be provided upon request, and as further discussion ensues between Heritage Contracting and the Slana Community Corporation.

Initial Project Cost Projections:

Project Planning & Design:	\$50,000
Insurance & Permits:	\$5,000
Personnel & Travel:	\$150,000
Earthwork & Related:	\$40,000
Concrete Work:	\$120,000
Materials, Supplies, & Hardware:	\$240,000
Equipment & Fuel:	\$50,000
Engineering & Construction:	\$140,000
Electrical:	\$20,000
HVAC:	\$20,000
Final Inspection:	\$5,000
<u>Contingency:</u>	<u>\$10,000</u>
Total:	<u>\$850,000</u>

Slana Community Corporation
PO Box 861
Slana, AK 99586

February 12, 2023

The Honorable Mike Cronk
State Capitol Room 418
Juneau AK, 99801

Dear Representative Cronk,

The Slana Community Corporation respectfully requests your consideration to present a community grant of \$850,000 for our Nonprofit Organization's proposed project before the Alaska Legislature since the Community of Slana is without heated emergency vehicle storage rendering the Community's fire engines inoperative during winter.

The Slana Community Corporation respectfully requests the Alaska Legislature fund the construction of a dedicated emergency service facility in Slana, Alaska. At this point, the Slana Community Corporation is limited to the financial constraint of Community Block Grant capped at \$850,000. Should the Alaska Legislature approve the Slana Community Corporation's request, the funds will be used to build a 60' x 40' x 40' heated garage with emergency services equipment storage and workspace. The garage will quarter one 3,500-gallon fire engine, one brush truck, and an ambulance while providing necessary space for emergency services maintenance equipment and emergency services gear.

The Alaska Legislature funding this project would provide a great year-around benefit to the Copper River and Upper Tanana Basins by having available Emergency Services vehicles, equipment and trained emergency services personnel available to adequately respond to medical and fire emergencies in the Copper River and Tanana River drainages.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nathan Brown', written in a cursive style.

Nathan Brown, President Slana Community Corporation

Gakona Vol. Fire Department

PO Box 337
Gakona, AK 99586
907-259-3033

February 12, 2023

To the Slana Community Corporation and the State of Alaska Legislatures,

During the spring and summer of 2021, the Slana Community Corporation approached the Gakona Volunteer Fire Department requesting assistance with fire protection for the residents and property within their community. Due to the distance(60 miles) and response times that can take over 1 hour from the Gakona fire station, the two entities collaborated in establishing an MOA(Memoranda of Agreement) to partner with fire protection in the Slana Community. Currently, there are four Gakona Volunteer Fire responders and two fire apparatus stationed in Slana to help provide emergency response and fire protection to the residents of the Slana community. The primary issue and drawback to providing life-saving emergency fire protection and medical services in the Slana community are that there needs to be a building to house the emergency equipment during the winter months. The Gakona Volunteer Fire Department wholeheartedly supports the Slana Community Corporation in requesting funding to build a structure to accommodate not only the fire apparatus presently in Slana but also their ambulance that has been stored outside during portions of the year.

As of the date of this letter, the responders from the Slana community fire responders have responded to and assisted the Gakona Volunteer Fire Department on two structure fires, one being the local store and the other a local residence, as well as several medical and motor vehicles accidents during this time. These responders have also assisted the GVFD and the Division of Forestry by patrolling the community during the summertime high fire danger and are vital to aid in the safety of the community members at large. During this time, the members of the Slana community and the Gakona Volunteer Fire Department have trained. They are working together to provide the best Emergency Services we can between the two communities.

I appreciate your consideration of this request, and if you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Jason Severs
Gakona Vol. Fire Department
Fire Chief/EMT 3
EMS Instructor
907-320-0503