

Fire Protection Fleet Maintenance and Replacement

FY2024 Request: \$1,200,000

Reference No: AMD 65479

AP/AL: Appropriation

Category: Public Protection

Location: Statewide

Impact House District: Statewide (HD 1 - 40)

Estimated Project Dates: 07/01/2024 - 06/30/2029

Project Type: Renewal and Replacement

Recipient: NA

House District: Statewide (HD 1 - 40)

Contact: Theresa Cross

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Brief Summary and Statement of Need:

The Division of Forestry & Fire Protection needs additional statutory designated program receipt authority to utilize revenues from fire cooperating agencies to pay for fleet maintenance and replacement. This approach reduces the division's reliance on state funding.

Funding:	<u>FY2024</u>	<u>FY2025</u>	<u>FY2026</u>	<u>FY2027</u>	<u>FY2028</u>	<u>FY2029</u>	<u>Total</u>
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Total:	\$1,200,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,200,000

<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 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:

The Division of Forestry & Fire Protection collects revenues through cooperative agreements when fire response engines are lent to other agencies within the Pacific Northwest. The division bills and collects a fee based on a daily rate as statutory designated program receipts. This budget proposal seeks authority to utilize these revenues for fleet maintenance and replacement. This approach will reduce the need for additional state funding to cover increased maintenance costs and inflation.

These fire engines are vehicles that are crucial tactical tools for protecting life, property, and natural resources. The Fire Protection Program has a long-term engine replacement plan designed to meet increasing maintenance and operational costs determined by the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOTPF). This funding will replace 16 fire response vehicles over the next four years, including the division's X-class vehicles that are past their useful life and are not covered under a maintenance and replacement plan with DOTPF.

Engine specifications are designed to meet National Fire Protection Association standards. Engine replacement needs exist for the fire stations in Fairbanks, Tok, Copper Center, Palmer, Homer, and Soldotna. This capital project will allow us to safely maintain an operational fleet of fire engines capable of effective wildland fire suppression.

Projected engine and vehicle purchase schedule and breakdown:

Calendar Year 2024

Replace eight Type 6 engines	\$73,000
Replace eight Type 7 engines	\$12,000
Replace nine X-Class Fire Support Vehicles	\$356,000
	<u>\$441,000</u>

Calendar Year 2025

Replace one Type 4 engine	\$29,000
Replace four Type 6 engines	\$28,000
Replace eight X-Class Fire support vehicles	\$413,000
	<u>\$470,000</u>

Calendar Year 2026

Replace two Type 4 engines	\$102,000
	<u>\$102,000</u>

DOT&PF’s cost model shows that maintenance costs are continuing to rise. Maintenance costs are different for each type of vehicle. For example, a Type 6 engine went from \$998 to more than \$1,750 per month. Before, a Type 4 engine cost \$1,400 per month, but when placed in service now, it costs more than \$2,400 per month.

These fire support vehicles are used for command and control of fires during the initial response, and they provide quick response, maneuverability, and the ability to patrol long distances in the Division of Forestry & Fire Protection response areas. These are the division’s standard emergency response fleet that our firefighters and DOT&PF mechanics are trained on. The investment of these revenues in the maintenance and replacement of these vehicles will be recovered many times over through cost savings from increased response capacity and ability to contain fires inexpensively while they are still small.