

February 9, 2010

Mayor Dave R. Carey
Kenai Peninsula Borough
144 N. Binkley
Soldotna, Alaska 99669

Dear Mayor Carey,

The Bear Creek Fire Service Area Board of Directors is requesting funding from the 2008 Commercial Passenger Vessel (CPV) excise tax funds that the Kenai Peninsula Borough has received and accepted.

We believe that the Bear Creek Fire Service Area is a permitted recipient of the funds due to the impacts that the cruise ships and their passengers have upon the service area. As the passengers from the Cruise ships disembark and disperse in the Seward area, nearly every one of the passengers from the ship pass through the Bear Creek Fire Service Area. Whether by bus, by train, or by rental car the Service Area is impacted by their presence.

Annually Exit Glacier and the Kenai Fjords National Park (located in the Fire Service Area) cater to approximately 110,000 visitors traveling in and out of the park. Additionally in 2007 the Alaska Railroad transported more than 34,000 passengers from Seward through the Bear Creek Fire Service Area along the 35 miles of rail that stretches through the department's coverage area and the neighboring areas that are covered through mutual aid agreements.

A majority of the passengers disembarking from the cruise ships are transported via motor coach along the Seward Highway and again through the fire departments service areas. There have been several incidents with these coaches that have had a direct response from the Bear Creek Fire Department personnel over the years.

To sum it up, the Bear Creek Fire Service Area personnel take a direct responsibility for nearly every single passenger that is either beginning or ending their cruise ship journey in the Seward port. As the guardians of the corridor for the Eastern Kenai Peninsula the Bear Creek Fire Service Area Volunteers are committed to protecting and aiding these travelers and it's year round residents. Any assistance that can be directed to the Fire Service Area would be vital to the department and its responders.

The following projects are all items that the Fire Service Area Board and Bear Creek Fire Department have identified in its past budget documents; 5 year capital plan, and/or past grant requests. The Department has current cost estimates on all the below projects within the last 3 months.

Priority 1	Mini-Pumper	Cost \$300,000
Priority 2	Apparatus Mounted VHF Radio Repeater	Cost \$20,000
Priority 3	Zoll Auto Pulse and AED (medical)	Cost \$19,100
Priority 4	Res-Q-Jack Vehicle stabilization struts	Cost \$6,570
Priority 5	Portable VHF Radio's x 6 units @ \$3,708 ea	Cost \$22,250

We look forward to working with your administration on the above projects to enhance the safety of the visitors to the Seward area and the public.

Sincerely,

Earl Kloster, Chairman

BCFSA Board of Directors



cc. Sue A. McClure, KPB Assembly, Susan Wilcox



Bear Creek Fire Service Area
PO Box 1565-Mile 5.5 Seward Hwy
Seward, AK 99664

Phone:(907) 224-3345 -Fax:(907) 224-3344 Email:bearcreek@seward.net

Mini-Pumper Funding Request \$300,000 Priority 1

The Bear Creek Fire Service Area is requesting funding to replace a 30 year old, 1980 Pierce Mini-Pumper that is out of date both functionally and mechanically. The apparatus has been used in the past as a first response unit for structural firefighting, wild land attack, and medical responses. This replacement unit will provide our department with a NFPA compliant apparatus that can be trusted to traverse our rugged Alaskan topography.

Bear Creek Fire Service Area needs a small pumper for first response, to access remote areas of the district or congested areas of our mutual aid response area. This unit will provide effective emergency services on structural, wild land, rescue, and medical calls. The proposed replacement unit will utilize a compressed-air-foam system to maximize its potential applications in the field, and its four wheel drive capabilities will assist responses to emergencies in adverse weather conditions. This unit will benefit our own population of 1,984, as well as the near 500,000 visitors who travel through the service area annually, via trains, buses, and automobiles.

The apparatus would also carry the necessary equipment to furnish our Rapid Intervention Teams (RIT). These teams of two or more are dedicated solely to being available in the case of downed firefighters in need of rescue. NFPA and OSHA both have standards that require a RIT. This agile vehicle would deliver resources not only within our own service area, but it would also provide rapid response as mutual aid to our neighboring departments as well.

This project is currently a long term goal for the fire service area. It is listed in the FY2010 budget for the Kenai Peninsula Borough on behalf of the Bear Creek Fire Service Area as a major concern. Additional efforts have been made to acquire this unit through applications to the Assistance to Firefighters Grant program through FEMA for the last three years unsuccessfully. Assistance was also requested to the Alaska State Legislature. The current appraised cost for this apparatus is \$300,000.



Bear Creek Fire Service Area
PO Box 1565-Mile 5.5 Seward Hwy
Seward, AK 99664

Phone:(907) 224-3345 -Fax:(907) 224-3344 Email:bearcreek@seward.net

Radio Repeater Funding Request \$ 20,000 Priority 2

The Bear Creek Fire Service Area is requesting funding to acquire a vehicle mounted radio repeater. This repeater would enable the Bear Creek Fire Service Area volunteers to effectively communicate throughout the service area. The Fire Service Area currently has numerous hazard areas where radio and cell phone communications do not function effectively.

A radio repeater is a combination of a radio receiver and a radio transmitter that receives a weak or low-level signal and retransmits it at a higher level or higher power, so that the signal can cover longer distances without degradation. This particular repeater would be mounted on a department apparatus and could then be staged in or near a low reception area, allowing for clearer communications during an incident

Vehicular repeaters are less expensive than designing a system that covers a large area and works with the weak signal levels of hand-held radios. Some models of radio signals suggest that the transmitters of hand-held radios create received signals at the base station one - two orders of magnitude (10 to 20 decibels or 10 to 100 times) weaker than a mobile radio with a similar transmitter output power.

This vehicle mounted repeater would be utilized primarily during search and rescue attempts where the Fire Service Area volunteers must span a wide distance in areas out of cell phone, and radio range, such as Kenai Fjords National Park. The addition of this technology would enable our volunteers to stay in constant communications with dispatch, as well as other units or agencies on our conventional VHF repeater system, Legacy EMS repeater system, or on the Alaska Land Mobile Radio system. The total cost for this equipment is \$20,000 with install and programming.



Bear Creek Fire Service Area
PO Box 1565-Mile 5.5 Seward Hwy
Seward, AK 99664

Phone:(907) 224-3345 -Fax:(907) 224-3344 Email:bearcreek@seward.net

Zoll AutoPulse System &AED **Funding Requested \$19,100**

Priority 3

The Bear Creek Fire Service Area is requesting funds for a Zoll AutoPulse Chest Compression Device and AED. The Zoll AutoPulse is able to move blood more consistently to the brain and heart than conventional CPR. With this machine performing chest compressions, caregivers are granted the ability to perform other high priority activities during transit to the hospital or emergency medical facility.

In addition to the AutoPulse, Bear Creek Fire Service Area would also like to request funding for an automated external defibrillator or AED. An AED is a portable electronic device that automatically diagnoses the potentially life threatening cardiac arrhythmias of ventricular fibrillation and ventricular tachycardia in a patient, and is able to treat them through defibrillation, the application of electrical therapy which stops the arrhythmia, allowing the heart to reestablish an effective rhythm.

With the combination of the Zoll AutoPulse system and a Zoll AED, our department would be equipped with top of the line products that contribute significantly to the total management of critical care scenarios by helping rescuers quickly respond to, diagnose, and treat sudden cardiac arrest (SCA) and trauma victims. Seward Volunteer Ambulance Corp and Bear Creek Fire Department responded to an average 25 calls in the last three years for either chest pain, or CPR in progress. With these products on the response vehicle, the patient's chances for survival would improve significantly. The total cost of this equipment is \$19,100.



Bear Creek Fire Service Area
PO Box 1565-Mile 5.5 Seward Hwy
Seward, AK 99664

Phone:(907) 224-3345 -Fax:(907) 224-3344 Email:bearcreek@seward.net

Res-Q-Jack Funding Requested \$6,600 Priority 4

The Bear Creek Fire Service Area is requesting funds to purchase a Res-Q-Jack stabilization unit. The current stabilization devices that the Bear Creek Fire Department uses require that our firefighters get out two sets of equipment instead of one. The Res-Q-Jack aids in this process as a stabilization unit and a jack all-in-one. By removing steps for set-up, the Res-Q-Jack would simplify operations on-scene and speed up the overall process of extricating a victim.

In the last two years the Bear Creek Fire Department Volunteers responded to an average of 18 calls per year for motor vehicle accidents along the Seward Highway. The Bear Creek Fire Service Area currently covers from Mile 3 of the Seward Highway to Mile 10. Additionally through mutual aid agreements the Volunteers respond all the way to Mile 70 with Moose Pass Fire Department.

On a vehicle extrication incident, every vehicle must be stabilized before a rescue crew can begin extricating. Stabilization bars are placed to create an "A" to support the vehicle. This ensures that the vehicle will remain in its current position and will not shift, causing the vehicle to tip over possibly injuring a firefighter or a potential victim inside. The Res-Q-Jack would provide a more efficient tool for executing the required procedures on scene as well as expediting all efforts by the volunteers. The complete package of Res-Q-Jack Vehicle Stabilization Struts would cost \$6,570.



Bear Creek Fire Service Area
PO Box 1565-Mile 5.5 Seward Hwy
Seward, AK 99664

Phone:(907) 224-3345 -Fax:(907) 224-3344 Email:bearcreek@seward.net

Portable Radios Funding Request \$22,250 Priority 5

The Bear Creek Fire Department is requesting funds to purchase six (6) portable radios for Fire Service Area Volunteers. These portable radios will improve our communications due to the new Alaska Land Mobile Radio (ALMR) compatibilities, as well as provide radios to personnel who currently don't have a radio issued to them. Presently, there are 12 radios that need to be replaced before narrow banding can take place. This will facilitate change out of half of those radios.

Of all the life saving gear firefighters carry, a portable radio may be the most significant in terms of their own personal safety. Portable radios allow every member to communicate clearly with each other, as well as with dispatch, and any other agency that is also engaged in the scene of the emergency.

Replacement of old, obsolete equipment and communications infrastructure will ensure radio capability necessary for interoperability with state, federal and local cooperators when responding to multiagency fires and other disasters and emergencies. This project supports the state's telecommunications plan (protects life and property) and contributes to the Department's mission by providing initial attack/emergency response readiness critical to protecting our service area. The total cost for all six portable radios is \$22,250.