

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Session:

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REPRESENTATIVE DAN SADDLER

Chairman, Eagle River Delegation

March 1, 2012

Rep. Bill Thomas, Co-Chair
Rep. Bill Stoltze, Co-Chair
House Finance Committee
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Reps. Thomas and Stoltze,

I am writing to request your rapid and favorable consideration of a request to provide state funding to address a critical life-safety issue in my district; specifically, replacement of the Bill Lowe Fire Station at 14010 Old Glenn Highway in Eagle River.

A significant portion my district enjoys outstanding firefighting and emergency medical services from the Chugiak Volunteer Fire & Rescue Department (CVFD). Established by local homesteaders 50 years ago, the department provides fire protection and EMS response to more than 14,000 people in a 50-square-mile local fire service area, stretching from Knik River Bridge on the north, to the North Eagle River overpass and access road to the south. It includes suburban and rural areas, plus light industrial and commercial areas, a general aviation airport, a large senior center, three elementary schools, one middle school, high school and several long-term care facilities for the elderly.

These volunteer firefighters respond to nearly 800 emergency calls per year, about 70 percent of them medical calls. While structure fires are infrequent, the challenges of serving remote locations with unimproved roads, oftentimes at significant distances from water supplies and potential mutual assistance from municipal firefighters make it critical that the department maintain every possible advantage. The community depends on the department, and it enjoys extremely high levels of support from residents.

Earlier this year, however, excessive snow loads at the Bill Lowe Station resulted in significant structural damage to the roof and support members of this ageing structure. The building had previously seen long service as an RV and automobile repair shop, and was purchased in 2004 and retrofitted for the department for use as a station, administration office and training center. An evaluation by Coffman Engineering, under contract to the Municipality of Anchorage, revealed the structure is in imminent risk of collapse, prompting the Municipality to order the station vacated immediately. (Report attached).

Rep Bill Thomas; Rep. Bill Stoltze
March 1, 2012
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The department has complied by dispersing its vehicles, equipment and supplies among its remaining four fire stations, and by securing temporary office space for management functions. Equipment owned by the local office of the Municipality's Parks and Recreation office also has been dispersed to other facilities in Eagle River.

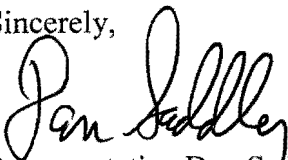
The closure of the Bill Lowe Station poses imminent and significant hazards to the health and safety of residents of my district. Reaction times will be significantly delayed in the southern section of the service area, which includes Eagle River's core business area, the large and growing Powder Ridge subdivision, and several schools. As you know, the difference between life and death during medical emergencies or fires is measured in seconds, let alone minutes. In addition, the dispersal of equipment means sub-optimal coordination of emergency responses, the loss of an adequate training center means firefighters will lose the keen edge of preparedness, and the lack of office space adds to the administrative challenges of this volunteer department.

CVFD officials, local government representatives, community leaders, and others have conveyed to me and other local legislators their extreme concerns over this situation. They are desperately hoping for the quickest possible response to their request for state financial assistance to begin land acquisition, planning, designing and constructing a replacement fire station.

While I have taken steps to request funding for this need in the FY 13 capital budget, I would ask that you consider funding this need by the most rapid legislative vehicle possible. It is essential that construction can take place this year so that full fire and emergency medical protection can be restored to the residents of my district without delay.

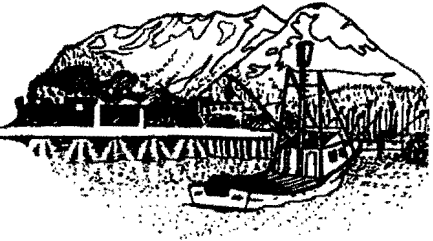
I would be pleased to discuss the matter with you more thoroughly at your earliest convenience. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dan Saddler". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Dan" being more prominent than the last name "Saddler".

Representative Dan Saddler
District 18 (Eagle River/Chugiak/JBER)

CITY OF CORDOVA



February 2, 2012

Karen Rehfeld, Director
Office of Management & Budget
Office of the Governor
PO Box 110020
Juneau, Alaska 99811-0020

SUBJECT: FY12 Supplemental Budget Request

Dear Ms. Rehfeld:

Please let me begin this letter by expressing gratitude from the entire community of Cordova for all the help and response from the Governor's Office this winter. Soldiers from the Alaska National Guard came here and gave us an appreciation for the service they provide our state. Their help was instrumental in preventing many local structures and buildings from being damaged.

Despite efforts to prevent the extreme snowfall from damaging public buildings, the local hospital is being severely damaged due to snow and ice loads on the roof.

This letter is to request your consideration for inclusion of the Governor's FY13 supplemental budget for \$2 million for replacement of the Cordova hospital roof.

While replacement of the Cordova hospital roof is the #1 priority of the Cordova City Council for our FY13 CIP list, the nature of the ongoing damage requires that repairs to the roof begin immediately before more extensive and costly damage is inflicted on other components of the facility.

Photographs of the situation illustrate the problem far better than words. Several pictures are attached for your review.

Cost estimates for replacement of the roof and corresponding building repairs are preliminary at this point. On May 13, 2011, an estimate by CH2M Hill gave a figure of \$1.65 million. However, that estimate did not review any other aspects of the building.

The ongoing ice and snow damage has destroyed the heating stacks, gutters, and fasciae in addition to numerous roof components. This is causing water damage to both the exterior and interior of the building, and despite our best efforts this damage will continue until the snow has melted. Our best estimate at this time is that these components will cost at least \$350,000.

Karen Rehfeld, OMB Director

February 2, 2012

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The situation in Cordova -- particularly the damage to the hospital -- is an ongoing issue that we are continuing to assess and attempt to mitigate. Nonetheless, we appreciate that the budget process in Juneau has appropriate deadlines and schedules that require us to forward this request at this time.

Thank you for reviewing and considering this request. Please contact me if there are any questions or more information is needed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Kallander", written over a horizontal line.

Jim Kallander, Mayor
City of Cordova

Attachments

CC: Commissioner Bill Streur, DH&SS
Senator Albert Kookesh
Representative Bill Thomas

**CITY OF CORDOVA, ALASKA
RESOLUTION 01-12-02**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CORDOVA, ALASKA,
DESIGNATING CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS.**

WHEREAS, the Cordova City Council has identified several Capital Improvement projects that will benefit the citizens of Cordova, and in several cases the entirety of Prince William Sound; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Cordova has identified the following Capital Improvement projects as being critical to the future well being and economy of Cordova and the surrounding area:

1. Hospital roof replacement & other minor exterior repairs
2. Electronic Health Records at CCMC
3. South Fill Expansion & Sawmill Avenue Extension
4. Shipyard Building
5. Shipyard Fill
6. G Float Replacement
7. Municipal Dock (Ocean Dock) Renovation
8. South Fill Sidewalks
9. Public Safety Building
10. Recreation Building
11. Water / Wastewater Plant upgrades
12. Ferry Trail

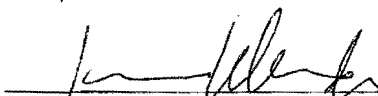
and;

WHEREAS, some or all of these projects will be submitted to State or Federal legislators and agencies as Capital Improvement projects in the City of Cordova, Alaska.


NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the City Council of the City of Cordova, Alaska, hereby designates the above listed projects as Capital Improvement projects.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 4th DAY OF JANUARY, 2012




James Kallander, Mayor

ATTEST:


Susan Bourgeois, City Clerk

Inter-Island Ferry Authority**FY2012 Request: \$250,000****Reference No: 45874****AP/AL:** Appropriation**Project Type:** Economic Assistance**Category:** Transportation**Recipient:** Inter-Island Ferry Authority**Location:** Southeast Alaska**House District:** Southeast Areawide (HD 1-5)**Impact House District:** Southeast Areawide (HD 1-5)**Contact:** JoEllen Hanrahan**Estimated Project Dates:** 04/15/2012 - 06/30/2016 **Contact Phone:** (907)465-2506**Brief Summary and Statement of Need:**

Inter-Island Ferry Authority (IFA) provides daily service between Ketchikan and Prince of Wales Island (POW). Passenger revenue and other funds are insufficient to cover their projected cost for the remainder of FY2012. This transport link is a vital service to Southeast Alaska. IFA is continuing to refine their operations plan to maximize profits, reduce expenses and minimize reliance on state funds.

Funding:	FY2012	FY2013	FY2014	FY2015	FY2016	FY2017	Total
Gen Fund	\$250,000						\$250,000
Total:	\$250,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$250,000

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

Additional Information / Prior Funding History:

Ch 1, Sec. 4, SLA 2011, page 31, line 15 \$350,000 - Operation assistance

Ch 15, Sec. 10, SLA 2009, page 58, line 12 \$1,500.0 - Operation assistance and northern route development assistance

Ch 30, Sec. 1, SLA 2007, page 21, line 33 \$500.0 - Debt retirement and assistance

Ch 82, Sec. 1, SLA 2003, page 15, line 7 \$200.0 - Startup cost

Bethel Campus Water and Sewer Line and Utilidor Repairs FY2013 Request: \$5,994,455
Reference No: 54788

AP/AL: Allocation

Project Type: Renewal and Replacement

Category: Education

Location: Bethel

House District: Bethel (HD 38)

Impact House District: Bethel (HD 38)

Contact: Elizabeth Nudelman

Estimated Project Dates: 07/01/2012 - 06/30/2017

Contact Phone: (907)465-8679

Appropriation: School District Major Maintenance Grants

Brief Summary and Statement of Need:

This request is project #12 on the November 7, 2011 Capital Improvement Projects, Major Maintenance list. The project will provide a new lift station and force main sewer, replace the water line from the city water building to the campus boiler building, repair the utilidor box structures, and demolish abandoned piping. These systems were built in the 1970's and have reached the end of their effective life-span.

Funding:	FY2013	FY2014	FY2015	FY2016	FY2017	FY2018	Total
Gen Fund	\$5,994,455						\$5,994,455
Total:	\$5,994,455	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$5,994,455

<input type="checkbox"/> State Match Required	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> One-Time Project	<input type="checkbox"/> Phased - new	<input type="checkbox"/> Phased - underway	<input type="checkbox"/> On-Going
0% = Minimum State Match % Required		<input type="checkbox"/> Amendment	<input type="checkbox"/> Mental Health Bill	

Operating & Maintenance Costs:

	Amount	Staff
Project Development:	0	0
Ongoing Operating:	0	0
One-Time Startup:	0	
Totals:	0	0

Additional Information / Prior Funding History:

N/A