



**CAPITAL CITY FIRE/RESCUE**

820 Glacier Ave  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Date: December 31, 2013

To: Kimberly Kiefer, City Manager

From: Rich Etheridge, Fire Chief

**Re: 2014 Marine Passenger Fee Funding Request**

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**Seasonal BLS/Firefighter Positions: \$165,900.00**

Capital City Fire Rescue is requesting funding for wages and benefits to continue the seasonal transport ambulance program. This funding covers wages and benefits for four full time seasonal EMT/Firefighters from May 1st through September 30<sup>th</sup>.

This program is in its seventh year and has been extremely successful in reducing the impact of tourism on our Emergency Medical System in the City of Juneau, while enhancing the service provided to the cruise ship industry. Wait times for patients needing transport have been greatly reduced by this program. This program also benefits the Air Ambulance Services as there are no longer delays in getting flights off the ground due to ambulances being tied up at other incidents.

During the 2013 Cruise Ship Season, Medic 1 transported 289 patients. Medic 1 had a total of 397 responses during the season. This was an increase of 43 incidents over the 2012 season. The additional incident responses from Medic 1, allowed the ALS ambulance to transport the more critical cruise ship patients and does not reduce basic medical coverage to the community. Not funding this program would create delays in transporting visitors to Juneau to waiting medevac flights and it would create response delays in EMS to the citizens of Juneau.

**Fuel for Medic 1 BLS Transport Ambulance: \$2,300.00**

CCFR requests reimbursement for fuel cost for the Medic 1 Ambulance. This request is based on documented fuel consumption by this unit during 2013. The prior period we used \$2,602 for the same period. Fuel prices have been projected to decrease.

**Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus Air Compressor**

**\$90,000.00**

Capital City Fire Rescue is requesting funding to replace the Self Contained Breathing Apparatus Air Compressor at the Regional Fire Training Center. The current compressor is past its usable life and parts are no longer available.

The compressor is used very heavily by the Cruise Ship Fire Fighting Staff and the State of Alaska for Cruise Ship Fire Fighting Training. The heavy use by this program has produced excessive wear. During the 2013 season the three main cruise line companies had 2,348 crew members receive training at this facility. Failure of this compressor could result in this program being relocated to another community. The ability to fill a marine firefighter's SCBA is vital to this program.

This compressor is also vital to the basic training of Juneau's new firefighters. The loss of this compressor will have a significant impact to the training of Juneau's firefighters. Without the additional work load on this compressor, from the cruise industry the useful life may have been extended. The State Division of Fire Training was unsuccessful in obtaining a legislative grant or CIP funds for this project. CCFR has been unsuccessful in obtaining grant money for its replacement. The cost of the compressor and installation is \$90,000.00

**Medevac Program Funding:**

**\$15,000.00**

CCFR requests continued financial support for the Medevac Program. Traditionally the CBJ has funded this program at \$25,000.00 to cover unrecoverable costs to the program. With the current incident volume CCFR has reduced its request by \$10,000.00

The CCFR Medevac Team responds to medical incidents in the upper half of Southeast Alaska. The patients are deposited in smaller communities from the cruise ships and our medics respond via contract helicopter to provide advanced life support on site and transport them to a higher level of care. This program is a direct benefit to the tourism industry. Many small communities do not have a runway that will support the use of a fixed wing aircraft used by private industry for transport. The incident volume has decreased as the private companies have brought in smaller aircraft that are able to get into more of the communities.

CCFR has also used this program to rescue cruise ship passengers from Mt. Roberts and the Mendenhall Glacier. The speed of a helicopter rescue has allowed patients to be treated at BRH and released in time to catch their departing ship. It further reduces the number of ground rescuers from fifteen spending two to six hours in the field down to two medics in under an hour.

During the 2014 season the program still needs to be maintained. The private for profit air ambulance company has not fully established their capabilities in helicopter response.

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CCFR needs to maintain the certification and ability. If the private company is successful, I anticipate this request being greatly reduced in future years.

**Consumables, Medical Supplies, and Equipment: \$53,600.00**

CCFR requests \$19,300.00 of the above amount for the replacement of medical supplies, minor equipment, cell phone usage, training video's directly related to transportation of cruise ship industry patients. As patients visit Juneau from all over the world personal protection is vitally important as unusual strains of illness foreign to Juneau are seen.

CCFR requests \$34,300.00 for uniforms, personal protective, equipment and self-contained breathing apparatus for the BLS crew. Nomex uniforms, personal protective gear, self-contained breathing apparatus are required to meet the National Fire Protection Association Standards (NFPA 1971 Uniforms, NFPA 1975 PPE, NFPA 1981 SCBA's).

**Training Facility Impacts Directly Related to Cruise Ship Industry: \$37,400.00**

The Hagevig Regional Training Center is used for continued training for the Cruise ship industry. The training center provides Marine Fire Training to the cruise ship crew members while they are in the port of Juneau.

During the 2013 season 2,348 students from three cruise agencies were taught ship board firefighting at this facility. The facility was built to serve the Alaska firefighters of the region.

This additional use is above what the facility was originally designed for. CCFR receives a rental fee of approximately \$120.00 per hosted class from the State of Alaska. This fee does not cover the cost of the daily wear and tear of the facility, fuel and utilities.

These classes create wear and tear on fire training props, firefighting equipment and the general cleanliness of the facility. All of these items must be maintained to prevent the facility from degrading and hampering the use for the local firefighters.

This years additional funding request is to fund a partial PCN titled "Fire Emergency Services Instructor" for up to 15 hours per week to maintain firefighting equipment, repair and construct training props and general care and maintenance of the five acre facility.

Currently CCFR either uses career firefighters on overtime, administrative staff or volunteers hired into partial PCN's that are used when their personal time permits.