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Commissioner

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Department of
Natural Resources

Anchorage, Alaska

STATE OF ALASKA

PRESS RELEASE

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Rural AK Fire Department Grants Expand Capabilities & Protections

(Palmer, AK) –The Alaska Division of Forestry & Fire Protection (DOF) recently awarded \$306,292 to 33 rural fire departments to improve firefighting capabilities and enhance protection in the wildland-urban interface. These funds will help fire departments around the state be better equipped to help suppress both structure and wildland fires. This year, the annual award cap reached \$10,000, a substantial increase from \$7,000 in 2024 and \$6,000 in 2023. The significant increase underscores a commitment to addressing the urgent need for resources in rural firefighting.

"Rural fire departments across Alaska are on the front lines of wildland firefighting, providing essential support in our shared mission to protect lives, property and natural resources," said DOF **Deputy Director of Fire Protection Norm McDonald**. "After another season of significant fire activity, it is clear these grants are more than just funding—they are an investment in the resilience of our communities and the strength of our partnerships."

Fire departments use the money to purchase items such as personal protective equipment, hoses, pumps, tools and other resources used to help fight both structure and wildland fires.

The funds come from the USDA Forest Service to the Alaska Division of Forest each year as part of the federal Volunteer Fire Capacity program. DOF distributes the money to rural volunteer fire departments that apply for the annual grants. To qualify for the grants, fire departments must serve a population of 10,000 or less, be a registered fire department with the Alaska Division of Fire & Life Safety and provide at least 10% non-federal matching funds.

More information on the Volunteer Fire Capacity program is available at <https://forestry.alaska.gov/fire/vfc>. A list of the fire departments and grants is included at the end of this release.

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| Fire Department | Amount Requested | Amount Awarded | Agency or DOF Office |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------|
| Delta Junction VFD | \$8,927.47 | \$8,927.47 | Delta Area Office |
| Tri-Valley VFD | \$8,678.52 | \$8,678.52 | Fairbanks Area Office |
| North Pole FD | \$9,967.39 | \$9,967.39 | Fairbanks Area Office |
| Chena-Goldstream Fire & Rescue | \$8,941.53 | \$8,941.53 | Fairbanks Area Office |
| Steese Area VFD | \$10,000.00 | \$10,000.00 | Fairbanks Area Office |
| McKinley VFD | \$5,625.00 | \$5,625.00 | Fairbanks Area Office |
| Ester VFD | \$10,000.00 | \$10,000.00 | Fairbanks Area Office |
| Western Emergency Services Area | \$10,000.00 | \$10,000.00 | Kenai Kodiak Area Office |
| Moose Pass Vol. Fire Co. | \$9,986.75 | \$9,986.75 | Kenai Kodiak Area Office |
| Lowell Point VFD | \$10,000.00 | \$10,000.00 | Kenai Kodiak Area Office |
| Cooper Landing VFD | \$9,813.40 | \$9,813.40 | Kenai Kodiak Area Office |
| Central Emergency Services | \$8,491.54 | \$8,491.54 | Kenai Kodiak Area Office |
| Bear Creek Fire/EMS Department | \$8,538.00 | \$8,538.00 | Kenai Kodiak Area Office |
| Seward FD | \$8,624.78 | \$8,624.78 | Kenai Kodiak Area Office |
| Nikiski FD | \$9,900.00 | \$9,900.00 | Kenai Kodiak Area Office |
| Bayside Volunteer Fire Department | \$10,000.00 | \$10,000.00 | Kenai Kodiak Area Office |
| Homer Volunteer Fire Department | \$8,892.00 | \$8,892.00 | Kenai Kodiak Area Office |
| Talkeetna VFD | \$10,000.00 | \$10,000.00 | Mat Su Area |
| Caswell Lakes FSA #135 | \$9,759.22 | \$9,759.22 | Mat Su Area |
| Willow VFD | \$9,759.22 | \$9,759.22 | Mat Su Area |
| Sutton VFD | \$9,531.00 | \$9,531.00 | Mat Su Area |
| Houston FD | \$9,900.00 | \$9,900.00 | Mat Su Area |
| Chickaloon Fire Service, Inc. | \$9,999.90 | \$9,999.90 | Mat Su Area |
| Haines VFD | \$6,001.65 | \$6,001.65 | Southeast Alaska |
| Sitka FD | \$7,142.09 | \$7,142.09 | Southeast Alaska |
| Saint Paul Dept. of Public Safety | \$8,495.24 | \$8,495.24 | Southwest District |
| Native Village of Eagle | \$9,899.09 | \$9,899.09 | State of Alaska Protection |
| Tok VFD | \$9,583.36 | \$9,583.36 | Tok Area Office |
| Valdez FD | \$9,900.00 | \$9,900.00 | Valdez-Copper River Area Office |
| Gakona VFD | \$9,940.50 | \$9,940.50 | Valdez-Copper River Area Office |
| Kennicott/McCarthy VFD | \$9,994.50 | \$9,994.50 | Valdez-Copper River Area Office |
| GlennRich Fire Rescue | \$10,000.00 | \$10,000.00 | Valdez-Copper River Area Office |
| Kenny Lake VFD | \$10,000.00 | \$10,000.00 | Valdez-Copper River Area Office |