

Appropriation Requests for Projects FY25

Each must include: a) 1000 character description, b) Benefits of project & why it is a priority, c) Why good use of taxpayer funds, d) Community engagement

1. **Project Title:** Saint Paul Island Fire Station Renovations

Amount Requested: \$1,500,000

Subcommittee: Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies (T-HUD)

Account: Community Development Fund for “Economic Development Initiatives”

a) This project involves the replacement of the roof, siding, and insulation of the Saint Paul Island fire station. The aim is to enhance the structural integrity, energy efficiency, and overall functionality of the building, ensuring a safe and conducive environment for firefighters. The project includes removal of the old roofing materials, inspection and repair of the underlying roof deck as necessary, installation of new roofing materials, and implementation of appropriate waterproofing and sealing measures to prevent future leaks and water damage. The project also includes removal of the existing siding materials, replacement of damaged structural components, installation of new siding materials that are durable and weather-resistant, and application of appropriate insulation materials and vapor barriers to enhance thermal efficiency and moisture resistance. Finally, the project includes repairs to the building envelope including removal of existing insulation materials, installation of high-performance insulation materials, sealing of air leaks and gaps to minimize heat loss and improve indoor air quality, and energy efficiency measures to maximize long-term savings on utility costs.

b) The engines housed inside a fire station are valuable assets that need to be protected from external elements such as rain, snow, and wind. In addition to engines, the fire station houses various equipment, tools, and gear essential for firefighting and emergency response activities. These items are susceptible to damage from water intrusion, mold growth, and exposure to external elements from deteriorating roof and siding. By replacing the roof with new, waterproof materials and ensuring proper installation, the risk of water damage to the fire engines and equipment will be significantly reduced. The existing deteriorating roof compromises the structural integrity of the entire building. If the roof fails, it may lead to sagging, collapsing, or other structural issues that can pose a threat to the safety of the engines and personnel inside. By replacing the roof and maintaining a secure, dry environment inside the building, the equipment stored within the fire station is preserved and kept in optimal condition, ready for deployment when needed.

c) The replacement of the fire station roof, siding, and insulation is a critical infrastructure project aimed at improving the durability, energy efficiency, and functionality of the facility. By investing in these upgrades, the fire department can enhance its operational capabilities, protect its personnel and equipment, and better serve the community for years to come. It is a proactive measure to safeguard the

operational readiness and effectiveness of the fire station in serving the community's needs.

d) The City's education and outreach contractor will be tasked with providing information to the community members about the proposed project prior to the start of the project and through to completion. Specific activities and methods will include, at minimum:

- Included in the City's "BeringS Newsletter" that is mailed to every resident on the island semi-annually as well as published on the City's website and Facebook.
- Added to the Infrastructure Projects Dashboard on the City's website.
- Posters, reader boards, and other printed materials.
- Upon completion of the proposed project, the City Public Safety Department will host an "Open House" to allow members of the public to tour the renovated Fire Station and see the improvements made possible through Appropriations funding.

2. **Project Title:** Emergency Back-up Generators for Saint Paul Island Drinking Water System

Amount Requested: \$1,200,000

Subcommittee: Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies

Account: DW: EPA, STAG, Drinking Water SRF, Drinking Water CDS

a) This project will install a total of 7 standby generator sets to the community's drinking water systems at the water treatment plant, valve house, and wells. Seismically rated 60kW generator sets will be installed at both the water treatment plant and the valve house. Each generator set will be fully enclosed in a coastal rated weatherproof, insulated, and heated enclosure and set upon structural concrete pads. Five portable, trailer mounted 30kW generators will be installed at five of the seven well locations. Portable units will be supplied with a 24-hour diesel fuel tank. This project will require the existing electrical service at both the valve house and water treatment facility to be removed and replaced due to deterioration. This project will improve the City of Saint Paul's drinking water infrastructure, mitigate the natural hazards that threaten the community, and increase the drinking water system's capacity to recover quickly from hazard impacts. The project is included in the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation, Division of Water, Revolving Fund Program's Fiscal Year 2024 Intended Use Plan.

b) Due to the City's remote and isolated location as well as limited businesses and other infrastructure on the island, borrowing or renting generators, obtaining bottled drinking water during or after emergency events, or connecting to neighboring water systems are simply not options. Saint Paul Island residents depend on the City and water utility's ability to rapidly recover from disruptions in service. Saint Paul Island is vulnerable to severe weather and other natural hazards which could leave critical facilities reliant on City-owned power generation and energy storage capabilities for extended periods of time; however, there currently is no backup power at any of the

water utility locations. Backup power ensures the availability of drinking water for our community.

c) Access to clean drinking water is essential for public health and safety, especially during emergencies such as natural disasters or power outages. Emergency generators ensure that water treatment plants can continue to operate even when there is a loss of electrical power, preventing contamination of the water supply and ensuring that residents have access to safe drinking water. The economic costs associated with disruptions to the water supply can be significant. Water outages can disrupt businesses, healthcare facilities, and other essential services, leading to financial losses and increased burdens on emergency response systems. By investing in emergency generators, taxpayers can potentially avoid the economic costs associated with water service interruptions. Investing in emergency generators helps municipalities comply with regulatory requirements, avoiding potential penalties or liabilities associated with non-compliance. While there are upfront costs associated with purchasing and installing emergency generators, they can result in long-term cost savings by preventing damage to infrastructure, minimizing emergency response expenditures, and reducing the economic impact of water service disruptions.

d) The City's education and outreach contractor will be tasked with providing information to the community members about the proposed project prior to the start of the project and through to completion. This position will provide education and outreach about the types of natural hazards that could impact Saint Paul Island, and the effects of natural hazards and climate change on the access to and availability of safe drinking water. Specific activities and methods will include, at minimum:

- Included in the City's "BeringS Newsletter" that is mailed to every resident on the island semi-annually as well as published on the City's website and Facebook.
- Addition of new content on the City's website pages on Emergency Preparedness and Resilience.
- Included in the City's annual Drinking Water Quality Consumer Report.
- Posters, reader boards, and other printed materials.
- Upon completion of the proposed project, the City Public Works Department will host an "Open House" to allow members of the public to tour the water utility facilities and see the improvements made possible through Appropriations funding.

3. **Saint Paul Island Community Greenhouse & Gardens**

Requested Amount: \$725,000

Subcommittee: Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies (AG)

Account: Rural Development, Community Facilities Grants

a) The Saint Paul Island Community Greenhouse Project addresses food insecurity by enhancing the availability and access of food for this remote, predominately Aleut (84%) community through the establishment of community greenhouses in which to grow fruits and vegetables. The Community Greenhouse Project includes construction of two 30'x96' greenhouses with raised beds, lighting, and connections to water, wasteheat and electricity. The City has consulted with the University of Alaska Cooperative Extension and fellow Alaskans in similar marine climate zones with successful greenhouse projects. Quotes for all building materials, supplies and equipment have been obtained. The City owns the land on which the greenhouse will be constructed, so no permitting is required. The City owns the water, waste heat and electricity to which the greenhouse will be connected. The City has public works laborers and operators and heavy equipment necessary for construction. The City will provide for utilities at the greenhouse annually. Also included in this request is funding for necessary supplies and equipment for greenhouse and garden operations.

b) Saint Paul Island is a place that has a significant need for fresh local food. Saint Paul Island's remote and rural location, inaccessible by the road system, creates challenges for transporting goods, including food. Produce, dairy, and all other perishable foods must be delivered to the island via Alaska Central Express Cargo Airlines. These flights are scheduled three times per week; however, flight cancellations due to fog and severe weather are a regular occurrence year-round here. There is only one grocery store on the island. By the time produce travels on the airplane and makes it into the grocery store here, it is often spoiled.

The University of Alaska and the Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association conducted a Food Security Assessment on Saint Paul in 2023. In that report, Saint Paul residents thought that an operative community garden or greenhouse was one of the top things that would most improve food security in their community, with over half of respondents (53%) affirming this. 56% surveyed wanted more healthy food options. When asked what things make it hard for households to get healthy food from the local grocery store, 97% of respondents said high costs, followed by poor condition of produce (81%). 72% indicated that healthy food was not always available. In a specific question about fresh fruits and vegetables, no survey respondents reported having access to fresh fruits and vegetables all the time.

c) Eighty-four percent (84%) of Saint Paul Island's population is predominantly Unangan (Aleut). The Unanga have gathered, hunted, and fished for food for thousands of years. This is the traditional and most important way for Unanga people to get local food. In addition to traditional ways of harvesting food, the Unanga are also beginning to learn and practice gardening, growing in greenhouses, farming, and mariculture. Local food production is a tool to promote food security in the region and to complement traditional ways of harvesting food. Food and access to healthy food are determinants of health. To some, including Indigenous thinkers, food is also medicine. At the 2022 APIA Regional Food Security and Climate Change Adaptation Symposium, five key food

security priorities were identified, one being to, “Research potential funding options for garden and greenhouse projects and connect communities with organizations to assist with funding and execution”. Creating a community greenhouse program on Saint Paul Island will increase opportunities for everyone to live the healthiest life possible, no matter who they are, where they live, or how much money they make. The community greenhouse project will emphasize food and nutrition security, nutritional quality, environmental stewardship (e.g., food loss and waste, climate), culturally sensitive food and/or food practices, and economic and social equity.

d) The City has already completed most of the preparation phase, including assessing community interest. The City conducted a “Fresh Locally Grown Produce” survey in January 2024. 41% of respondents stated they would purchase fresh locally grown produce twice per week, 23% three times per week, and 35% biweekly. When asked what types of produce people would be interested in having grown locally, the three top answers were tomatoes (94%), leafy greens (82%), and berries (71%). The City intends to continue surveying to collect data and feedback throughout planning and implementation.

Additional community engagement activities and methods will include, at minimum:

- Included in the City’s “BeringS Newsletter” that is mailed to every resident on the island semi-annually as well as published on the City’s website and Facebook.
- Added to the Infrastructure Projects Dashboard on the City’s website.
- Posters, reader boards, and other printed materials.
- Upon completion of the proposed project, the City will host an “Open House” to allow members of the public to tour the greenhouses and gardens made possible through Appropriations funding.
- Organize social gatherings, workdays, and events.
- Evaluate establishing a 4H Club with the local school, and adding educational programs through Extension Office specifically for Pribilof Islands microclimate growing conditions.

4. **Project:** Planning & Design of Multiuse Neighborhood Center for Saint Paul Island

Amount Requested: \$500,000

Subcommittee: Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies (T-HUD)

Federal Agency: HUD

Account: Community Development Fund for “Economic Development Initiatives”

a) This request seeks funding for the planning and design of a multiuse neighborhood center which will serve as a community hub and recreation center, as well as an emergency shelter. We envision sports fields, playgrounds, and a fitness center; a venue for workshops, classes, and skill-building activities; places for local artisans to showcase their creations; and a community gathering space for cultural events. This request seeks funding to complete the planning and design phase of this project.

b) Having a multiuse neighborhood center in this remote, rural community offers a wide range of benefits that can significantly enhance the quality of life for residents and contribute to the overall well-being of the community:

- serving as a central hub where residents can gather, socialize, and connect with one another fosters a sense of community identity and belonging
- recreational facilities that provide opportunities for physical activity and leisure pursuits for residents of all ages
- housing educational resources and programs
- providing space for local businesses and entrepreneurs stimulates economic development and supports small-scale enterprise in the community
- serving as a designated emergency shelter and as a staging area for emergency response efforts and community outreach
- supports cultural and artistic expression by providing space for local artists, performance venues, and cultural events

c) Neighborhood centers play a crucial role in promoting public health and well-being by providing access to recreational facilities and wellness programs. They encourage physical activity, social interaction, and healthy behaviors, leading to improved physical and mental health outcomes for residents. Investing in a neighborhood center empowers residents to take ownership of their community's future and shape its development according to their needs and aspirations. It fosters a sense of agency, civic engagement, and collective action, empowering residents to address local challenges and pursue shared goals collaboratively. While there may be upfront costs associated with building and operating a neighborhood center, the long-term benefits can outweigh the initial investment. By promoting community health, social cohesion, economic development, and resilience, neighborhood centers can lead to cost savings in areas such as healthcare, social services, public safety, and infrastructure maintenance.

d) Community engagement for this project will begin by engaging with the residents to understand their needs, priorities, and vision for the neighborhood center. The City will identify key stakeholders and hold community meetings, surveys, and workshops to gather input and feedback from stakeholders. The City will conduct a comprehensive needs assessment to identify the services and facilities that are lacking in the community, considering factors such as access to healthcare, education, recreation, social services, and cultural activities.

The City will host workshops to gather input from stakeholders and ensure that the neighborhood center reflects the needs and aspirations of the community. The City will solicit community input to identify a suitable location for the neighborhood center that is accessible and central to the community and design suggestions that prioritize sustainability, inclusivity, and functionality.

The City's education and outreach contractor will be tasked with providing information to the community members about the proposed project prior to the start of the project and through to completion. Specific activities and methods will include, at minimum:

- Included in the City's "BeringS Newsletter" that is mailed to every resident on the island semi-annually as well as published on the City's website and Facebook.
- Added to the Infrastructure Projects Dashboard on the City's website.
- Upon completion of the proposed project, the City will create a reader board in City Hall where members of the public can view architectural drawings and rendering images of the new facility made possible through Appropriations funding.

5. **Project Title:** Planning & Design of Salt Lagoon & Community Pond Flood Mitigation
Amount Requested: \$500,000
Subcommittee: Homeland Security
Account: Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) Projects

a) Coastal flooding is common on Saint Paul Island, caused by high tides, strong winds, or storm surge. Storm surges from easterly storms repeatedly inundate the lowlands. As future conditions lead to more intense storms and rising sea levels, coastal flooding is becoming more frequent and storm surges are becoming more severe. The purpose of this project is to complete planning and design for flood mitigation improvements near the Salt Lagoon and Community Pond on Saint Paul Island. Polovina Turnpike is a vital transportation link as it is the only improved road connection between the community and the airport, public water supply wellfield, municipal landfill, and other areas north of town. This project will help design, scope, and reduce risks from a known natural hazard identified in the City's Local Hazard Mitigation Plan. The project will begin with collection of all available information about past flood events to support storm inundation mapping and risk analysis of the affected areas within the community. Three primary areas to be designed for flood mitigation improvements include the Polovina Turnpike and Bartlett Boulevard intersection, the Polovina Turnpike at the north end of Salt Lagoon, and the Polovina Road Extension.

b) This project will reduce the risk that this vital transportation link is damaged or destroyed by overtopping of, and erosion from, storm surge or wave action during future storm events. A further benefit is improved protection of underground utility infrastructure located along the east side of Polovina Turnpike in this area from damage associated with road erosion hazards. Utilities in this area include electric distribution to the airport, public water supply wellfield, and other facilities north of town; water transmission main from the public water supply wellfield to the community's water storage tanks; and telecommunications lines. This upgrade will provide improved flood protection to homes, businesses, and the health center, which are all located along the north side of Bartlett Boulevard. Associated stormwater improvements will reduce the hazard of localized stormwater flooding of facilities on the north side of Bartlett

Boulevard due to runoff from high intensity precipitation events and snow melt events. The 2018 extension of Polovina Turnpike from Bartlett Boulevard to Cliffside Drive has been effective flood mitigation for adjacent areas. This project will plan for the continuation of Polovina south to Rimrock, providing improved flood protection to sewer collection mains, homes, and private property along Rimrock Drive. This measure will provide an additional evacuation route for Old Town and improve emergency response times to the South Old Town neighborhood.

c) Floods can isolate this remote community, making it difficult for emergency services to reach those in need. Improving this transportation route will ensure that emergency services can access affected areas promptly, potentially saving lives during floods and other emergencies. This enhanced accessibility also facilitates timely evacuation efforts, reducing the risk to residents' lives and property. While the initial investment in flood-resistant transportation infrastructure may seem substantial, it can result in significant long-term cost savings. Regularly repairing flood-damaged roads can be far more expensive over time than investing in resilient infrastructure upfront. Moreover, resilient infrastructure can withstand multiple flood events without significant damage, reducing the need for frequent repairs and maintenance. Improved transportation routes enhance the overall livability and quality of life in rural communities. Residents have better access to essential services, educational opportunities, and recreational facilities, fostering a more vibrant and resilient community. Additionally, reliable transportation infrastructure can attract investment and stimulate economic development, creating jobs and enhancing prosperity in rural areas.

d) The City's education and outreach contractor will be tasked with providing information to the community members about the proposed project prior to the start of the project and through to completion. Specific activities and methods will include, at minimum:

- Included in the City's "BeringS Newsletter" that is mailed to every resident on the island semi-annually as well as published on the City's website and Facebook.
- Added to the Infrastructure Projects Dashboard on the City's website.
- Posters, reader boards, and other printed materials.
- Addition of flood-specific and evacuation content on the City's website pages on Emergency Preparedness and Resilience.