

APPROPRIATIONS REQUEST FORM OREGON HOUSE DELEGATION FISCAL YEAR 2010

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION: FEBRUARY 13, 2009

PLEASE NOTE: As required by the House Appropriations Committee, all requests will be made public on the requesting Member's website.

1. Project Title:

Fire and oil spill response communications project

2. Organization Name and address:

Maritime Fire and Safety Association (MFSA)
200 SW Market Street
Suite 190
Portland, OR 97201

3. Primary Contact name, phone number, mobile phone number, fax number and email:

Liz Wainwright, Executive Director
W: 503-220-2091
Wainwright@mfsa.com

4. Project Location Address (if different from Organization):

5. Please describe the requesting organization's main activities, and whether it is a public, private non-profit, or private for-profit entity:

The MFSA is a non-profit public-private partnership established in 1983 after a fire destroyed the M/V Protector Alpha, killing one Coast Guardsman and injuring a local firefighter, and obstructing ship movements for several days. The MFSA's mission is to promote fire protection, safety, and the enhancement of navigation on the Columbia and Willamette Rivers in order to prevent a similar incident from happening in the future. The MFSA serves as the primary first responder and communications asset for the lower Columbia/Willamette River transportation system and coordinates any response to emergency situations that could limit freight movement and threaten the safety of the 1,400,000 people that live in this region.

6. Briefly describe the activity or project for which funding is requested (please keep to 500 words or less.)

The Maritime Fire & Safety Association (MFSA) is seeking \$1,600,000 for fire and oil

spill response communications infrastructure replacement and modernization that will maintain the safety, mobility and efficiency of the lower Columbia/Willamette River transportation system by enhancing the preparedness of local fire agencies and environmental response teams in mitigating and responding to vessel fire and spill incidents. This system would also support daily ongoing communications and emergency response communications between public and private partners, including numerous local fire agencies, law enforcement, the U.S. Coast Guard, US Customs and Border Protection, and others.

The current MFSA communications system has become a valuable asset to the marine community within the lower Columbia/Willamette River transportation system and supports both daily ongoing as well as emergency response communications in this region. The current system, however, is analog and has already surpassed the end of its 10-year life cycle. Parts to maintain the system will soon be no longer available as these types of systems move from analog to digital. The MFSA began work on a communications upgrade in 2003, but has only been able to obtain partial funding for this project, resulting in a project that is less than half completed. Due to the nature of the upgrade, no part of the new system can be brought online until the entire system is ready. Without this funding, interoperability will be impossible to maintain.

7. Has this project received federal appropriations funding in past fiscal years? Yes

7a. If yes, please provide fiscal year, Department, Account, and funding amount of any previous funding.

\$500,000 in the Consolidated FY2005 Appropriations Bill under Department of Transportation, Federal-Aid Highways, General Provisions – Federal Highway Administration

\$425,000 was included in the Transportation, Treasury, Housing and Urban Development, the Judiciary, the District of Columbia, and Independent Agencies Appropriations Act of 2006 under Department of Transportation, Office of the Secretary, Transportation Planning, Research, and Development.

Funding was requested in FY07 and FY08, but no funding was received. Funding was also requested in FY09, but we do not know yet if funding will be obtained.

8. Federal agency and account from which funds are requested (Please be specific – e.g. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Economic Development Initiatives account):

Department of Transportation, Office of the Secretary
Transportation Planning, Research, and Development

9. What is the purpose of the project? Why is it a valuable use of taxpayer funds? How will the project support efforts to improve the economy and create jobs in Oregon?

This project addresses the communications needs of first responders along the lower Columbia/Willamette River transportation system. The Draft Washington Statewide Communications Interoperability Plan (SCIP) conducted a recent survey on the state of

interoperability within the state of Washington. While some areas rated well, others were noted to need definite improvement, and this project would directly counteract the deficiencies identified within the SCIP. One such area that the MFSA upgrade project would counter is the area of technology. The SCIP noted that the “lack of modern, integrated and standards based shared mobile radio... hinder access to the important incident management information systems and common operational pictures,” (SCIP, p. 56). The MFSA upgrade would more effectively integrate the many disparate communications systems of both urban and rural fire districts along the lower Columbia/Willamette River transportation system. The SCIP also notes that the main challenge facing Washington State at this point of time lies in the fact that first responders “are too often hampered in their ability to effectively respond in a coordinated manner to crimes, disasters, fires, and medical emergencies because their communications systems are often incompatible,” (SCIP, p. 57). Bridging these incompatible communications systems is the entire point of the MFSA project. The MFSA has striven for the past two decades to integrate communications in order to effectively respond to emergencies.

10. Have you requested funding for this project from other Members of Congress? If so, who?

Yes: Requests have gone to Senator Wyden, Senator Merkley, Senator Murray, Senator Cantwell, Congressman Wu and Congressman Baird

11. Funding Details:

a. Total project cost (all funding sources and all years): \$2,525,000

b. Amount being requested for this project in Fiscal Year 2010: \$1,600,000

c. What other funding sources (local, regional, state) are contributing to this project or activity? (Please provide specific dollar amount or percentage.)

While 100% of capital costs would be paid by Federal dollars, the operation and maintenance of the system since its initial inception has been paid for by the MFSA's members (vessel assessment fees). Once completed, the operation and maintenance of the system will continue to be paid in this manner.

d. Do you expect to request federal funding in future years for this project? No.

e. Breakdown/budget of the amount you are requesting for this project in FY 2010. (e.g. salary \$40,000; computer \$3,000):

Funding will be used to purchase and install upgrades to the four base stations and microwave connectivity for the radio system, and provide training to firefighters and first responders. While the coverage area will not significantly change under the new system, it will ensure that all first responders along the lower Columbia/Willamette River transportation system, regardless of jurisdiction or origin will be able to communicate with each other when that communication make the difference between life and death, while also reducing congestion and enhancing freight mobility.

f. Please list public or private organizations that have supported/endorsed this project:

Oregon Fire Agencies:

Astoria Fire Department
Clatskanie Rural Fire District
Columbia River Fire and Rescue
Portland Fire Bureau

Other Oregon Partners

Chevron Texaco - Portland, OR
CLD Pacific Grain - Portland, OR
Columbia Grain, Inc. - Portland OR
Columbia River Steamship Operators Assoc. - Portland, OR
Kinder Morgan Liquids Terminals LLC - Portland, OR
McCall Oil Chemistry Corp. - Portland, OR
Port of Astoria - Astoria, OR
Port of Portland - Portland, OR
Port of St. Helens - St. Helens, OR
Schnitzer Steel Products - Portland, OR

Washington Fire Agencies:

Clark County Fire District #6 - Vancouver, Washington
Clark County Fire District #12 - Ridgefield, Washington
Cowlitz Co. Fire District #1 - Woodland, Washington
Cowlitz County Fire District #5 - Kalama, Washington
Cowlitz 2 Fire & Rescue - Kelso, Washington
Longview Fire Department - Longview, Washington
Vancouver Fire Department - Vancouver, Washington

Other Washington Partners:

Emerald Kalama Chemical, LLC - Kalama, WA
Kalama Export Company - Kalama, WA
Longview Fibre Co. - Longview, WA
Marine Terminals Corp. - Vancouver, WA
Port of Kalama - Kalama, WA
Port of Longview - Longview, WA
Port of Vancouver - Vancouver, WA
United Harvest, LLC - Vancouver, WA
NuStar Energy - Vancouver, WA
Weyerhaeuser Co. - Longview, WA

g. Is this project scalable? (i.e. if partial funding is awarded, will the organization be able to use the funds in FY 2010?): Yes

Please return this form no later than February 13, 2009 (via email) to:
appropriations.blumenauer@mail.house.gov