

Construction of a Certified Veterans Cemetery in Fairbanks area **FY2024 Request:** **\$7,100,000**
Reference No: **63932**

AP/AL: Appropriation

Project Type: Construction

Category: To be determined

Location: Fairbanks (Areawide)

House District: Fairbanks Areawide (HD 31 - 35)

Impact House District: Fairbanks Areawide (HD 31 - 35)

Contact: Bob Ernisse

Estimated Project Dates: 07/01/2023 - 06/30/2028 **Contact Phone:** (907)428-7210

Brief Summary and Statement of Need:

The State of Alaska, with funds obtained from the state and the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, will build a certified veterans cemetery in the Fairbanks area. Construction will start once the federal grant is approved, estimated in FY2023 or FY2024.

Funding:	FY2024	FY2025	FY2026	FY2027	FY2028	FY2029	Total
1002 Fed Rcpts	\$6,000,000						\$6,000,000
1004 Gen Fund	\$1,100,000						\$1,100,000
Total:	\$7,100,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$7,100,000

☐ State Match Required ☐ One-Time Project ☐ Phased - new ☐ Phased - underway ☐ Ongoing
0% = Minimum State Match % Required ☐ Amendment ☐ Mental Health Bill

Operating & Maintenance Costs:

	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Staff</u>
Project Development:	0	0
Ongoing Operating:	0	0
One-Time Startup:	0	0
Totals:	0	0

Prior Funding History / Additional Information:

Sec14 Ch11 SLA2022 P125 L24 HB281 \$3,270,000
Sec1 Ch18 SLA2014 P55 L29 SB119 \$100,000
Sec1 Ch16 SLA2013 P69 L17 SB18 \$2,000,000
Sec1 Ch17 SLA2012 P122 L7 SB160 \$2,000,000
Sec1 Ch43 SLA2010 P29 L21 SB230 \$6,000,000

Project Description/Justification:

Additional funds are needed for the cemetery project to cover increased costs associated with cemetery construction and meet requirements for federal funding. The cost to complete the cemetery is expected to be 90 percent higher than originally estimated (from \$8 million to \$16.1 million); these additional funds are needed to meet requirements for the federal grant. The updated costs are based on current economy, complex shipping logistics, and supply chain issues.

This project provides for the planning, design, and construction of a dedicated State Veterans Cemetery in Fairbanks to serve the burial needs of veterans in the interior of Alaska. Currently veterans in this region must travel to Anchorage or Sitka, 350 and 750 miles respectively, to reach the nearest veterans' cemetery with available grave space.

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs has analyzed cemetery projects nationwide and determined that project costs have risen from initial funding estimates; therefore, additional funding is provided to meet these costs.

This project supports the department's priority to support veterans and military families.