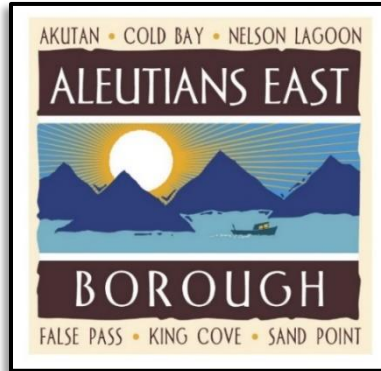


In the Loop



King Cove to Receive New Ambulance Thanks to a HUD Grant from the American Rescue Plan

During a medical emergency, every second counts. Ambulances help to ensure patients get the care they need as soon as possible while transporting them to a hospital, or in King Cove's case, the clinic. This is especially true during the COVID-19 pandemic.



King Cove's current decades-old ambulance has several mechanical issues as well as other problems.

"It certainly is a very vital piece of equipment," said Chris Babcock, King Cove's Fire Chief.

This critical piece of equipment has been serving King Cove for 32+ years. While the vehicle has been maintained and is operable, it has several issues.

"It's starting to show its age," said Babcock.

Over the years, concerns about the declining ambulance and its reliability have grown, including a slipping transmission, spongy breaks, an

emergency break light that stays lit and oil leaks. In addition, the heat in the patient transport is not working, and the parts to fix the problem are no longer made.

Older model ambulances have a high step in the back, making it very cumbersome for the EMS staff to get into and out of the vehicle. Crews must also carefully maneuver the stretchers in while trying to avoid disrupting the patient and preventing injuries to themselves.

“It’s so tough getting people in and out, and it puts a tremendous strain on the EMS people, increasing the chance of getting the back hurt or falling,” Babcock said.

But those problems will soon vanish. In early January, the Belkofski Tribe, in partnership with Aleutian Housing Authority (AHA), was awarded funding under the American Rescue Plan Indian Community Development Block Grant Imminent Threat program. The \$364,000 grant, which is coming from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) will pay for a new ambulance.

“We were really excited about that,” said Lynn Farr, President of the Belkofski Tribe. “Most of the first responders are volunteers, and they work really hard, so it’s just great we’re able to do this.”

Getting to this point wasn’t easy, and it didn’t happen overnight.



Photo of model Ram 3500 (Type 1 Arrow Ambulance) being considered. The newer safety features will make it much safer for patients and EMS staff and includes several amenities.

“We’ve been trying for the last couple of years to see if we could secure funding for a new ambulance,” said Babcock. “An average ambulance is around \$300,000. We knew the City didn’t have that kind of money, so we searched for other things.”

Babcock says the City of King Cove set up a special account and deposited \$25,000 towards a new ambulance.

“We reached out to several entities to see if they would put in money towards a new ambulance,” he said. “I didn’t want a band-aid. I wanted a fix.”

However, no additional money was forthcoming. About a year ago, Erin (Wilson) Potter, Deputy Director of AHA, as well as the Belkofski Tribe called Babcock about a possible grant opportunity with CARES Act funding. However, Babcock said they soon discovered the money ran out. After another opportunity presented itself through the American Rescue Plan, they made a second attempt. Babcock had priced out an ambulance, and provided additional information to Potter who wrote and submitted the grant on behalf of the Belkofski Tribe.

“Chris had everything right there, ready to go,” Potter said.

Last December, Potter got word that the Belkofski Tribe was on the list for the latest round of grant awards.

“I was a little leery about announcing anything until we had a funding agreement in hand,” she said.

Once that came through in early January, Potter immediately called Babcock and the Belkofski Tribe to share the good news.

“It was really exciting because we didn’t hear anything back, and then all of a sudden, Oh, my God!” Farr said.

“I’ve pretty much let everybody in town know that we’re getting it,” Babcock added.

It's expected to take about six months for the ambulance to be ordered, custom built and shipped to King Cove. The vehicle will most likely arrive in late summer or early fall. The grant will be administered by AHA, and will be in the Belkofski Tribe’s name.

“Then they’ll turn it over to the City, and we will take over ownership,” he said.

“Being from King Cove, I know how needed this is,” said Potter. “To be a partner on this, is very exciting.”

“We’re very thankful to the Belkofski Tribe and the Aleutian Housing for their persistence in securing this money,” Babcock said.

After the first grant fell through, Babcock said the Tribe and AHA refused to give up.

“Both Erin and Lynn were adamant about going after the funding and getting this ambulance. I can’t thank them enough,” he said.

Washington State Patrol Awards Sand Point Police Officer the Medal of Courage

The Washington State Patrol (WSP) recently awarded Sand Point Police Officer Curt Boyle the Medal of Courage. The award stemmed from his courageous actions, professionalism and restraint during a violent, life-threatening confrontation with an armed man in King County, Washington one year ago. Boyle had six months left before retiring from the Washington State Patrol when the incident happened.



Sand Point Police Officer Curt Boyle recently received the Medal of Courage from the Washington State Patrol.

On Jan. 6, 2021, the WSP lieutenant was heading home just after 1 a.m. following an overtime detail. Suddenly, what should have been a quiet day turned into something else altogether.

“I was just supposed to cruise until the end of my career,” Boyle said. “Keep a suit and tie on -- not throw on a uniform and go out and do stuff like that. But that was my whole career. That’s how I always was. If something was happening, I was there.”

As Boyle was approaching his exit, a young trooper ahead of him was driving eastbound on I-90 from 150th Ave SE behind a car with a stolen plate. Boyle advised trooper communications about the situation. They waited for another trooper to show up before conducting a felony vehicle stop.

The law enforcement officers turned on their emergency lights and the driver took off. After getting permission from Boyle, the trooper used the pursuit immobilization technique (pit). The trooper used this non-lethal technique to push the rear corner of the suspect’s Chevy Tahoe, causing it to break traction and spin out.

“So they do 360-degree spins across the freeway and go into the median,” Boyle said. “He’s in a big 4x4, trying to get out.”

After the suspect freed the car from the median, he came close to ramming Boyle’s patrol car, then sped off. The main trooper in pursuit turned around, heading westbound on I-90, towards Seattle and Bellevue. Boyle turned around and followed behind.

“The guy suddenly starts shooting out his windows and then starts shooting back at the trooper, Boyle said. The troopers continued chasing the suspect.



Sand Point Police Officer and retired Washington State Patrol Lieutenant Curt Boyle was awarded the Medal of Courage from the WSP for his courageous actions, professionalism and restraint during a violent, life-threatening confrontation with an armed suspect.

“Now I’m just telling him to take the car out, ram it, get it off the road, and stop it from getting into the metropolitan area so he can’t do this on the freeway,” Boyle said.

They took the exit to West Lake Sammamish, and head into a suburban area. The suspect drove through the median and crashed into a tree, but kept going on Lakemont Blvd SE and up a hill.

“The guy’s shooting at us again,” Boyle said, “and I’m saying, take him out, take him out. I can hear the gunshots coming back towards us,” Boyle said. “So he finally hits the suspect with his car and pushes him into the trees.”

The suspect’s car was disabled, but the troopers didn’t know where his gun was.

“The last thing we wanted was an armed person, who’s willing to shoot a police officer, running through a neighborhood and creating some sort of hostage situation or some other really bad situation in a community,” he said.



Washington State Trooper Chelsea DeHart and retired WSP Lieutenant Curt Boyle each received the Medal of Courage at a ceremony in December 2021.

Boyle requested a less lethal option, which was a bean bag shotgun as well as the more lethal option, the AR-15,” Boyle said.

The driver and a passenger exited the vehicle. The suspect had his hands up, while the passenger laid face down in the mud, yelling expletives. Then the suspect put his hands down, refused to comply with demands and started walking toward them. Troopers later discovered the suspect had multiple prior felonies.

“He was yelling, ‘I’m not going to jail! I’ll be doing a minimum of 25 years. Shoot me! Shoot me!’”

Boyle instructed a young female trooper to fire at him with the bean bag shotgun.

“She shoots him three or four times, and he finally goes to the ground,” Boyle said.

The troopers cuffed the suspect. One of them checked to make sure no one else was hiding in the vehicle, and they found a handgun sitting on the seat, with two rounds of bullets jammed in the

chamber. No injuries were sustained by troopers, and there were only minor injuries from the bean

bag rounds to the suspect, which didn't require any medical attention. Boyle is grateful the potentially deadly situation ended well.

"The fortunate thing is, luckily the gun was jammed because otherwise, he would have kept shooting," he said. "Secondly, we had less lethal options because he wasn't following commands, so our troopers were able to use appropriate tools to stop the guy."

All three troopers involved received medals of commendation. The main trooper in pursuit received the award of honor. Boyle and the female trooper received the awards of courage, the second highest awards in the patrol.

Sand Point Police Chief Dave Anderson, who knew Boyle in Washington from the law enforcement community, is thrilled to have Boyle working in Sand Point now.

"I've just been tickled to have this high-quality individual up here," he said. "He's a drug recognition expert; he's had a good career and has been a positive force," Anderson added. "He's been a role model for all the troopers down there, so we're very fortunate to have him up here. He's definitely an asset for us."

Boyle's career includes seven years with the Seattle Police Department and 25 years with the Washington State Troopers, rising to the rank of lieutenant. He was also a SWAT team member and spent the last 4 years of his career with the troopers as the Washington State Fusion Center Director.

Here in Sand Point, Boyle is enjoying the slower pace of life while utilizing his law enforcement skills and knowledge. Moving to Alaska has always been a dream of his. Boyle is enjoying the job while immersing himself in the community and lending a hand whenever he can.



Sand Point Police Officer Curt Boyle helped a young angler retrieve his fishing pole after the enthusiastic young man cast his line, along with the pole, into the water. Photo by Dave Anderson.

"I think it's a great community," he said. "Everybody has been very gracious and accommodating. I can drive down the road, and if I see someone outside that's freezing cold, I say, hey, hop on in. Let me give you a ride home."

Boyle is also enjoying the beauty in Sand Point as well as community activities. He arrived in town at the perfect time – during the Silver Salmon Derby. During the event, he helped fillet fish,

enjoyed a little fishing himself and retrieved a little boy's fishing pole from the water.

"He got a little overzealous with his fishing pole and threw it into the water, instead of just the line," Boyle said. "He and his buddy were just staring at the water. I said, here, give me yours. I used his buddy's fishing pole to get the other little boy's pole, reeled it up and rescued his fishing pole," he laughed. "Yeah, that's what I love."



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

RESEARCH VESSEL CHARTER SERVICES

Issued: Monday, January 31, 2022

Proposals Due: Friday, February 25, 2021 at 12:00 p.m.

The Aleutians East Borough (AEB) is soliciting proposals to charter a qualified fishing vessel with deck rigging capabilities to conduct a cod tagging study in collaboration with the Alaska Fisheries Science Center.

To receive a full Request for Proposal packet, please contact:

Glennora Dushkin, Administrative Assistant
gdushkin@aeboro.org
(907) 274-7556



False Pass Tribal Council
P.O. Box 29
False Pass, Alaska 99583
(907) 548-2227
eFax (844) 206-9004
Email: office@fptribe.net

Job Announcement

REHAB & RENOVATION PROJECT COORDINATOR

Full Time: (40 Hours per week)

Rate of Pay: DOE

Location: False Pass, AK

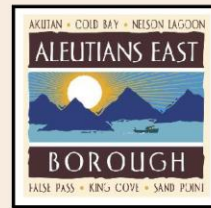
Duties: The Native Village of False Pass is hiring a Rehab and Renovation Project Coordinator to manage, oversee and carry out rehab/construction projects in False Pass. The purpose of this position is to lead rehab and renovation projects for the Tribe and its Citizen households. The Rehab and Renovation Project Coordinator will oversee full cycle to completion projects. Must be able to prepare scope of work, project delivery, cost estimate and budget, work plan schedule, quality control and risk management. Have the ability to prepare and present effective written and/or oral reports to the Tribal Council at each Regular Meeting. Perform other reasonably related duties as assigned or required by the Tribal Council.

Qualifications: To perform this job successfully, an individual must have prior carpentry experience or related experience. Experience in rehabilitation labor, material costs and construction methods. Ability to work and communicate well with homeowners, community residents, staff and officials and construction and non-construction professionals.

Native Preference will be given to qualified Alaskan Native and American Indian applicants pursuant to Public law 93-638.

The Mission of the Native Village of False Pass is: To foster community pride by gathering community members, involving youth and valuing elders; To promote a healthy community and traditional, healthy lifestyles; To support educational programs for all members, youth to elders.

Help Improve Mail Delivery in the Aleutians East Borough



Mail delivery is inconsistent and problematic in the Borough. The delays and stockpiling of mail are especially concerning for time-sensitive prescription medications and other items. Your help is needed to strengthen our existing mail delivery system.



The Aleutians East Borough has created a mail tracking form for you to fill out. This will help to assure mail carriers are fulfilling their contract by delivering mail in a timely manner. The forms will be forwarded to the U.S. Postal Service, the airlines and the Alaska Delegation. For more information, click on this link: <https://bit.ly/3xf0pE5> or email: mailtracking@aeboro.org.

If you'd like to subscribe, please email ltanis@aeboro.org.



*Thank you for reading **In the Loop**. If you would like to subscribe or unsubscribe, please send an email to ltanis@aeboro.org. For more information about our communities, our people, and our fisheries, please visit us at www.aleutianseast.org and www.aebfish.org. For the latest news, find us on Facebook:*

[*Link to AEB's Facebook page*](#)

[*Link to King Cove's Facebook page*](#)

[*Link to Cold Bay's Facebook page*](#)

[*Link to Sand Point's Facebook page*](#)

[*Link to Akutan's Facebook page*](#)

