



Greater Ketchikan Community Request for Fiscal Year 2026 State Funding

Project Title: Public Safety Building—Planning/Design/Construction

FY 2026 Funding Request: \$3,850,000.00

APPLICANT:	PROJECT PHOTO
City of Saxman 2841 S. Tongass Hwy. Route 2 Box 1 Ketchikan, AK 99901 (907) 225-4166 FEIN 92-0041226 Marissa Medford cityadmin@kpunet.net	

Is the request a one-time project or is additional State funding expected to be requested in the future? One-time

BRIEF PROJECT DESCRIPTION:
<p>The public safety building/fire station within Saxman was built in the 1970's and in addition to not being equip to handle current needs, the building itself has a rotten foundation and a leaking roof resulting in a mold issue. Renovation of the current facility doesn't make sense as the costs would exceed the value of the current building and more room is needed for emergency apparatus storage (the current location cannot accommodate the space needed).</p>

FUNDING PLAN
<p>State the total project cost: <u>\$3,850,000.00</u> State funding already secured: <u>\$0.00</u> State the amount of the State funding request for this fiscal year: <u>\$3,850,000.00</u> State the amount of funding available from other sources with an explanation where appropriate: <u>\$80,000.00</u> in land secured. Federal funding options available, however, the grants need to be applied for by the Tribe.</p>

DETAILED PROJECT CRITERIA:
<p>The project would create construction jobs and provide a safe facility for essential first responders and staff (VPSO, STVFD, EMS).</p>

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The project is absolutely critical to the life, safety, and health of all Ketchikan Gateway Borough residents and businesses, not just Saxman. The recent fire that destroyed the South Tongass Fire Station, emergency apparatuses, and medical equipment highlights the need for additional emergency response resources on the South end, much like the North end has two locations. Continued increase in housing and economic development within Saxman and the Ketchikan Gateway Borough necessitate another location for the South Tongass Service Area. An additional facility would aid in decreasing response time, which is imperative for survival and to mitigate damages.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND JUSTIFICATION:

Deferred Maintenance: The public safety building is a key facility and necessary renovation and repairs have been needed for a long time. It has been deferred as the current location and facility do not fit current needs. A new location has been secured.

Infrastructure: The recent fire that destroyed the South Tongass Fire Station, emergency apparatuses, and medical equipment highlights the need for additional emergency response resources on the South end. Continued increase in housing and economic development within Saxman and the Ketchikan Gateway Borough necessitate another location for the South Tongass Service Area.

Public Safety: The recent fire that destroyed the South Tongass Fire Station, emergency apparatuses, and medical equipment highlights the need for additional emergency response resources on the South end. Continued increase in housing and economic development within Saxman and the Ketchikan Gateway Borough necessitate another location for the South Tongass Service Area. An additional facility would aid in decreasing response time, which is imperative for survival and to mitigate damages.

Private Sector Tools: Saxman Seaport has many private-sector growth opportunities / development possibilities—many are newly established with more on the horizon. It would be of significant benefit to have the additional emergency response resources as the community continues to expand and develop.

Investment in Future: Saxman has many growth opportunities / development possibilities—many are newly established with more on the horizon. It would be of significant benefit to have the additional emergency response resources as the community continues to expand and develop. Several housing development projects, Port Infrastructure Development to create an AMHS ferry terminal and to relocate the MV Lituya run / test electric ferries, a Food Hub to promote food security by KAPA, Three Bears grocery store, and Totem Harbor development.

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Support for Essential Services: This project ensures the community will have necessary emergency services support, decrease response times for threats to life and property, and increase public safety.

Culture and Recreation: The Saxman Totem Park is a major attraction for Ketchikan area visitors. The park includes a tribal house, a carving center, and a cultural hall for traditional Tlingit dance exhibitions.

Underserved Community: Organized Village of Saxman has a rural designation. Of the roughly 400 residents within Saxman, 75% are Alaska Native and have been an underserved community and disproportionately disadvantaged since colonization. The community is currently without a VPSO presence and having an appropriate public safety building would help to attract and retain this necessary presence within our community.

PROJECT TIMELINE

The project would likely need 18-24 months for completion.

ONGOING OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE:

City of Saxman & Public Works / VPSO / STVFD & EMS