



January 22, 2023

Dear Alaska Legislators,

In 2018, the only public safety shooting range was shut down by the FAA which left interior law enforcement without a place to train. Within this packet is material collected from our efforts over the last 5 years to bring the Interior Training Facility, (ITF) to reality. This material will help you understand the Interior Training Facility and its importance to our public safety mission. This facility will provide Alaska with a state of the art training facility for all public safety agencies across the state.

This project has evolved over time and has three options which, depending on funding, will determine which one we can move forward on.

Option #1 is a basic outdoor range capable of supporting qualifications and training. This could be a single 100-yard range capable of being built out to a multi bay range with backstops. This version of the range would cost between \$1 - \$6 million depending on land and features. The more funding the more bays and amenities. This could expand up to and include all items listed in Option #3 and could be built over time. This option is scalable to the funding made available.

Option #2 is a large indoor shooting range where training can occur year-round, and vehicles could be brought inside for vehicle tactics. Law enforcement would benefit from a facility that would accommodate the harsh weather experienced in the interior of Alaska. This facility would be approximately 175' x 350' and would have classrooms for instruction and onsite storage for equipment. This project is estimated to cost \$8 - \$10 million depending on land and design complexities.

Option #3 is a full-scale training facility that encompasses indoor training rooms, an outdoor multi bay shooting range and a large emergency vehicle course for law enforcement, EMS, and fire departments to practice emergency vehicle operations training. This project has an estimated price to complete at around \$13 - \$14 million. This is the preferred option and will help more agencies and be the most inclusive training facility.

Two different options for managing this facility have been debated, both of which are viable. One would be a department run facility either DPS, North Pole Police, Airport, Fairbanks Police or University Police handling management and operations or a nonprofit group,, such as the Alaska Peace Officer Association, using a board compiled of user agencies. Both options would have a process for each user agency to pay annual fees to maintain the facility.

Both the City of North Pole and the City of Fairbanks, along with a resolution of support from the Fairbanks Northstar Borough are all showing support for this project. For the 4th year both the City of North Pole and the City of Fairbanks have placed this project as their Legislative priorities. In 2019, the Legislators set aside \$250,000 for a site survey which was done. A site selected from many parcels was identified and may be the final home of the ITF depending on funding and land acquisition costs. Grant RR-20-001 still has funds remaining which could be used to offset costs in the next phase.

It is our intention to petition the legislators and or the Governor to fund this project so we may pursue a home for critical training in the interior. This new multiuse facility will replace the one taken from us in 2018 by the FAA. We are hoping to see full funding from the legislators in 2023, but we could start working on the project if funding comes in less than the full amount.

Within this packet are the two public meeting packets produced during the site selection process, a project overview, resolutions from both the City of North Pole and the City of Fairbanks, and a legislative flyer used to help share the vision to others.

Whichever project the legislators choose to fund, it will be a long overdue solution to our training needs. We are available to discuss this project if you wish to have further need.

Very Respectfully,



North Pole Police Chief Steve Dutra



Chief Roger Stevener
Fairbanks Airport Fire and Pole



Chief Ron Dupee
Fairbanks Police Department

May 10, 2022

The APOA Statewide Board of Directors strongly supports the efforts of the Public Safety Coalition in Fairbanks, North Pole, and APOA Farthest North Chapter to build the Interior Training Facility (ITF.) This multi-agency coordinated effort will provide for a much needed resource to adequately train and maintain perishable physical skills for area law enforcement and public safety professionals.

The APOA Statewide Board of Directors would like to emphasize the timeliness by the Governor's Office and the State Legislature to fully fund and support this worthwhile project. Securing the funding for this project will assure a modern and necessary training facility for Alaska Peace Officers and Public Safety professionals for generations to come.

As you are well aware, Alaska presents many challenges and obstacles in the daily life of personnel in these fields. Having access and availability to such critical and life-saving training as the ITF would provide is a rare gem. The construction of the ITF will provide a remarkable place to conduct safe and expansive firearms training plus a comprehensive Emergency Vehicle Operations Course (EVOC.) This facility would have the potential to train and support over 500 regional public safety personnel and quite likely become a coveted resource for agencies statewide.

Please contact the APOA State Chapter business office in Anchorage at 907-277-0515 if there is anything our organization can do to help with approval for this important project. We thank the Governor and the Legislature for their commitment and dedication to the public servants of our great state.

Yours in Service,



Kirt Stage-Harvey

President, APOA State Board

Detective, Juneau Police Department

Alaska Peace Officers Association State Chapter

PO Box 240106

Anchorage, AK 99524

www.apoasonline.org



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Board Member

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Troopers

Jay King

Executive Director

Director, Unalaska Police

April 11, 2022

The Alaska Association of Chiefs of Police would like to express its support to the efforts of the Alaska Police Officers Association and the Public Safety Coalition in the Fairbanks, North Pole area to build the Interior Training Facility. This endeavor is critical to the proper training in firearms and driver training for emergency personnel across the interior of Alaska.

Our Board of Directors would like Governor Dunleavy and the Alaska Legislators to know that the Alaska Association of Chiefs of Police supports the funding of this project without delay. This project will meet the basic training needs of the interior law enforcement and fire personnel for decades to come. This training facility will help local, state, and federal employees and will become a magnet facility to train others from around the state.

Having a place to conduct safe firearms training is essential to a prepared, professional, and trained police force. The driver training portion of this facility is also necessary to help EMS, Fire, and police departments conduct vital emergency vehicle driver training. Please understand this facility will support over 500 emergency personnel in essential job training, and it should be a critical part of our statewide infrastructure plans.

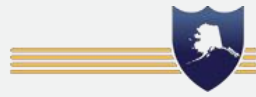
We appreciate your support and encourage the State of Alaska to support this project this year as this project will take time to design and build.

With Sincere Regards,

Ed Mercer

Vice President, AACOP

Chief of Police, Juneau Police Department



Above: Rendering of conceptual drawing

SUMMARY

The Farthest North Chapter of the Alaska Peace Officers Association (APOA) is seeking funding to design and construct a new public safety training facility within the Fairbanks North Star Borough (FNSB) to serve the entire Interior region of the state.

This new facility is needed because the previous outdoor public safety training range was closed due to its location on Fairbanks International Airport property. There are three competing options, all dependent on funding.

Option #1 has a broad range of possibilities dependent on funding. \$1 to \$6 million can build a basic single 100 yard range or the full \$6 million dollar multi bay range with heat and a small building and covered shooting line.

This project will be developed in phases. After acquiring the selected site and completing the design, the next priority is constructing an outdoor range that can be put to use as soon as possible. Future expansion for option #3 will have phases of development and associated budget requests for the construction of the indoor training building, warm storage, and driving course. So Option #1 and #3 can be developed in phases.

BUDGET REQUEST: OPTION #1

APOA is requesting funding to complete initial phases of project development toward completion of this much needed training facility for local area peace officers.

APOA has selected one possible site for the home of this new facility. The estimated cost of designing and constructing the new facility is approximately the same at both sites. **The final acquisition cost may fluctuate as we finalize the negotiations for the selected site.*

Phase 1:

*Project design and property acquisition**

\$525,000

Phase 2:

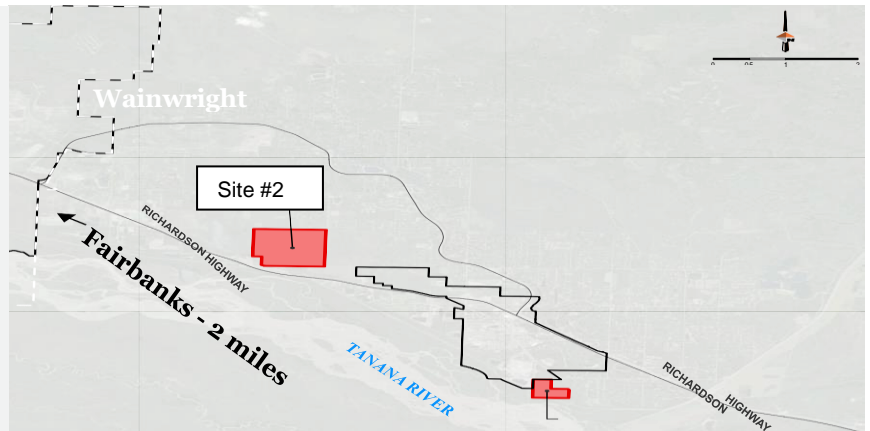
RANGES - Site prep, wages, electrical, construction of shooting range pads, canopies, berms, bullet traps, and fencing

\$5,500,000

Total Budget Request:

\$6,025,000

Site 2: This site is located on the northeast side of the Richardson Highway, between Fairbanks and North Pole, just north of K&K Recycling. The parcel is owned by FNSB, is 619 acres and encumbered by wetlands, but not located in a flood hazard area. If this site is selected there may be a cost associated with leasing or purchasing the land.



Project Timeline



APOA FARTHEST NORTH CHAPTER CONTACTS

Steve Dutra
sdutra@northpolepolice.org
907-488-6902

Michael Radgosky
mradgosky@yahoo.com
907-377-3651

Option #2 is a fully enclosed heated building that is 175' x 350' to accommodate 100 yard range with multiple bays and space to train and store equipment. This facility would also have the ability to drive vehicles inside for use in training. This option would lead to a future driving area once funding was secured. \$8 - \$10 Million.

Option #3 is a fully complete training facility with driving area and multi bay outdoor range with classrooms and storage and workshop. This facility would be a true all purposed Ems/fire and police training location. Costs for this project option are \$13 - \$14 million.

Links to other similar public safety facilities and designs

Gilbert AZ PS Training facility: [Gilbert Public Safety Training Facility | Town of Gilbert, Arizona \(gilbertaz.gov\)](http://gilbertaz.gov)

[Gilbert Public Safety Training Facility - YouTube](#)

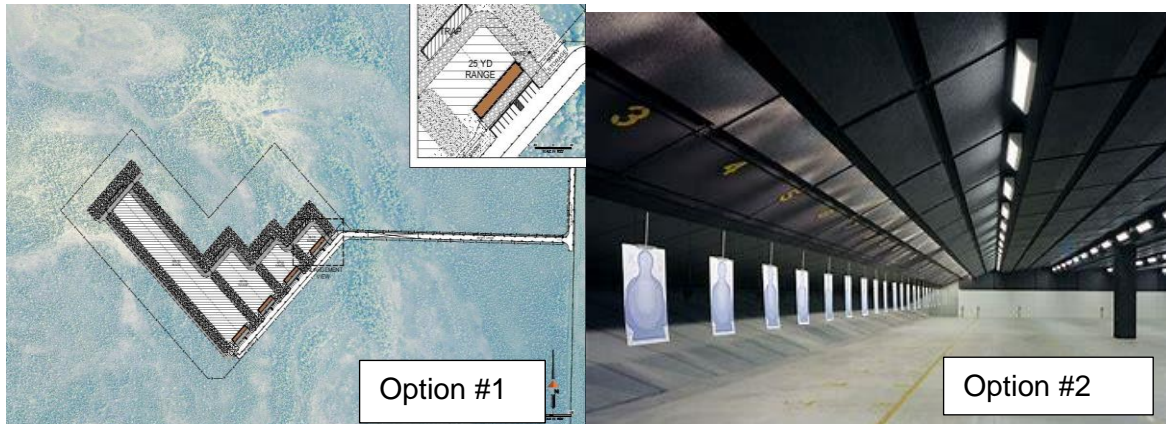
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ALASKA PUBLIC SAFETY INTERIOR TRAINING FACILITY -

February 1, 2023

Three options being presented:

- 1: Single to multi bay range depending on funding.
- 2: 175' x 350' indoor range
- 3: Complete facility with multiple ranges, indoor classrooms and an outdoor emergency vehicle operations course.



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PROJECT TEAM INTRODUCTIONS

Chief Steve Dutra, North Pole Police

Retired AST FW Lt. Lantz Dahlke

Retired AST Captain Ron Wall

John Wyman, SOA Dept. Fish and Game



Agency Representatives from the Farthest North Chapter of the APOA

APOA Farthest North Chapter – Board Members

Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game (ADF&G)

Alaska State Troopers (AST)

City of Fairbanks, Police Department (FPD)

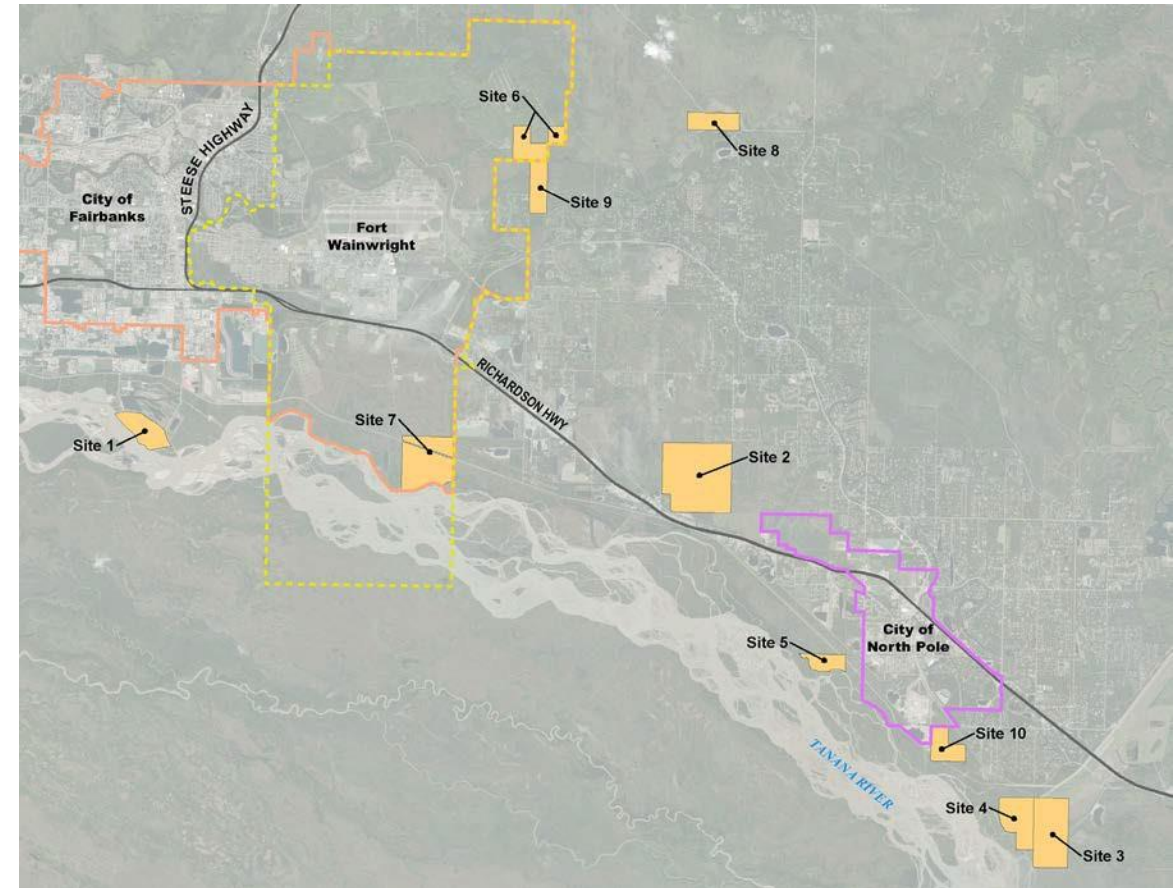
City of North Pole, Police Department (NPPD)

Fairbanks International Airport, Police and Fire (FAIP&F)

University of Alaska Fairbanks, Police Department (UAFPD)

COMMUNITY MEETING #2

- The Farthest North Chapter of the Alaska Peace Officers Association (APOA) will provide an update and seek additional feedback on the selection of a site for the Alaska Public Safety Interior Training Facility. This training facility will serve the Alaska Interior region.
- **During this meeting we**
 - Reviewed the preferred site
 - Responded to questions and comments
 - Presented the future training facility site plan
 - Updated attendees on the overall project



PROJECT NEED AND GOALS

- To find a suitable location for an Interior Public Safety Training Facility
- To fill a need from the closing of the only Interior Public Safety Training Facility that was located on Fairbanks International Airport property
- Support the Interior public safety agencies and organizations
- APOA and the Public Safety Coalition will work together to develop Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) and management of the new facility
- APOA and the Public Safety Coalition are working together to secure funding



WHY IS THIS FACILITY NEEDED

- The training facility will be used by all Interior public safety agencies, such as
 - Law enforcement (State, Local and Military)
 - Fire personal
 - Rescue personal
 - EMS personal
- Currently there is no safe and secure training location
 - South Cushman range is a public range
 - Fox range is a small private range that can host small group trainings
 - ADF&G indoor range is a public range
- This facility will be able to host multiple training options, such as
 - Firearm proficiency
 - Tactical skills improvement
 - Emergency Vehicle Operation Course (EVOC) training
 - Multi-agency mass training events



COMMUNITY SUPPORT FOR THE PROJECT

1
2 By: Bryce J. Ward, Mayor
3 Introduced: 02/25/2021
4 Adopted: 02/25/2021

5 FAIRBANKS NORTH STAR BOROUGH

6
7 RESOLUTION NO. 2021 – 04

8
9 A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE CONSTRUCTION OF AN INTERIOR
10 MULTIDISCIPLINARY PUBLIC SAFETY TRAINING FACILITY IN THE FAIRBANKS NORTH
11 STAR BOROUGH

12 WHEREAS, Public safety personnel are required to maintain certain training
13 proficiencies; and

14
15 WHEREAS, Training facilities are in short supply and public safety agencies
16 train in outdoor facilities and in conditions not ideal for maintaining proficiency; and

17
18 WHEREAS, The Fairbanks North Star Borough (Borough) has occasionally
19 provided training facility time for law enforcement at the South Cushman Range; and

20
21 WHEREAS, Borough residents benefit from well-trained law enforcement
22 officers and emergency services personnel; and

23
24 WHEREAS, Law enforcement, fire, and EMS personnel are in need of proper
25 training facilities in order to increase and maintain proficiency and practice coordinated
26 emergency service exercises; and

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28 WHEREAS, Local municipal, state and federal law enforcement and
29 emergency service agencies have come together to seek funds for the design and
30 construction of an Interior training facility; and

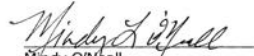
31
32 WHEREAS, Facility construction hopes to accomplish multiple aspects of
33 training to include firearm proficiency, tactical skills improvement, Emergency Vehicle
34 Operation Course training, and multi-agency mass training events; and

35
36 WHEREAS, A multiuse, multidiscipline Interior training facility for large
37 apparatus emergency driver training is not available in the Interior; and

38
39 WHEREAS, The State of Alaska has awarded a grant to the Alaska Peace
40 Officers Association to complete preliminary design drawings and concepts of a multi-use
41 public safety training facility.
42

43 NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Assembly of the Fairbanks
44 North Star Borough requests the State continue to support the efforts of local, state, and
45 federal law enforcement and emergency services agencies in the efforts to construct an
46 Interior training facility in the Fairbanks North Star Borough.

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48 ADOPTED THE 25TH DAY OF FEBRUARY 2021.

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Mindy O'Neal
Presiding Officer

ATTEST:


April Trickey, CMC
Borough Clerk

63 Yeses: Sanford, Tomaszewski, Wilson, Cash, Lyke, Williams, Cooper, Lojewski, O'Neal
64 Noes: None

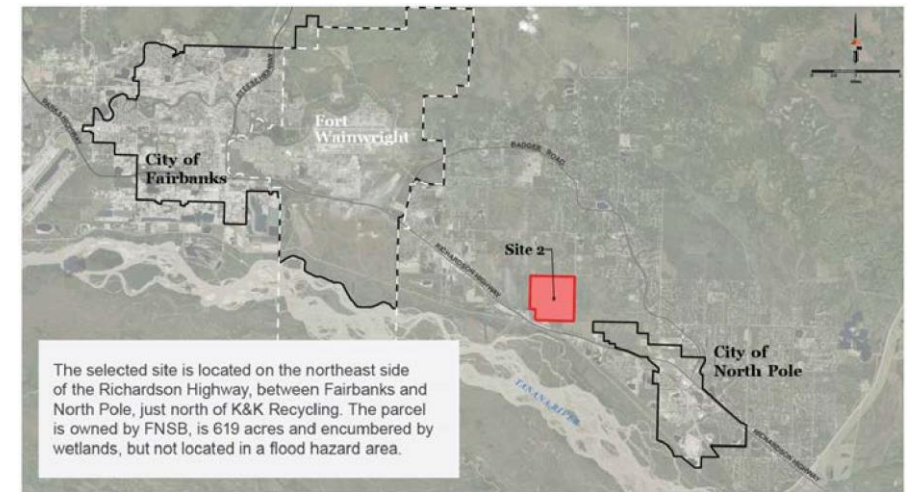
INTERIOR TRAINING FACILITY

Option #1 and #3

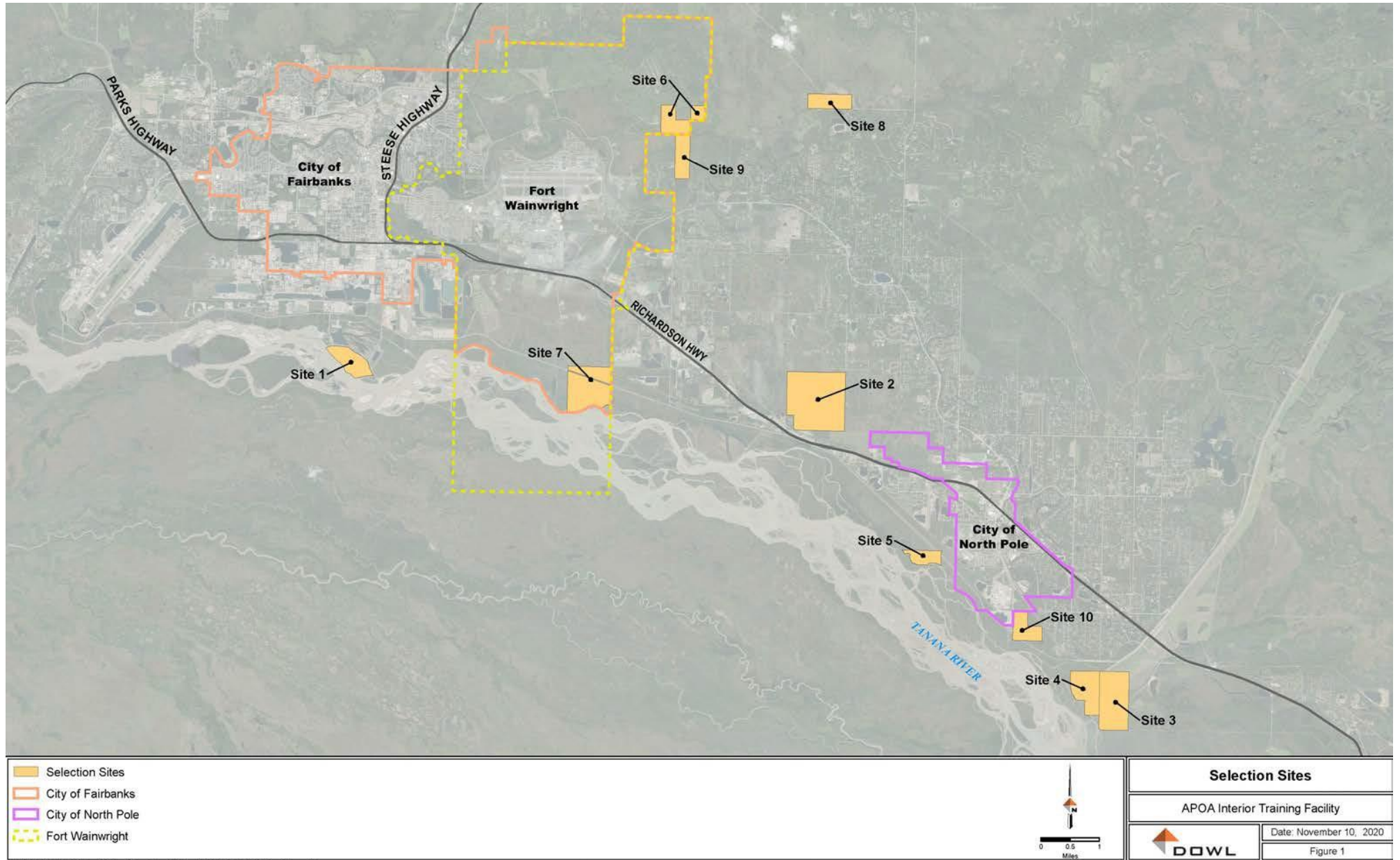
- Multi-bay outdoor range to support firearm proficiency certifications
 - Bay 1 – 300 yards
 - Bay 2 – 100 yards
 - Bay 3 – 50 yards
 - Bay 4 – 25 yards
- Large paved area or roadways that will be used as
 - A training area for the Emergency Vehicle Operation Course (EVOC)
 - A training area for large apparatus emergency driver training, i.e., firetrucks and ambulances
 - A location to host mass training events and helicopter medivac training for life-flights
- Indoor classroom training
- Indoor storage area



PROJECT SCHEDULE



SELECTION SITES



PREFERRED SITE - SITE 2

Location: Northeast side of Richardson Hwy, between Fairbanks and North Pole

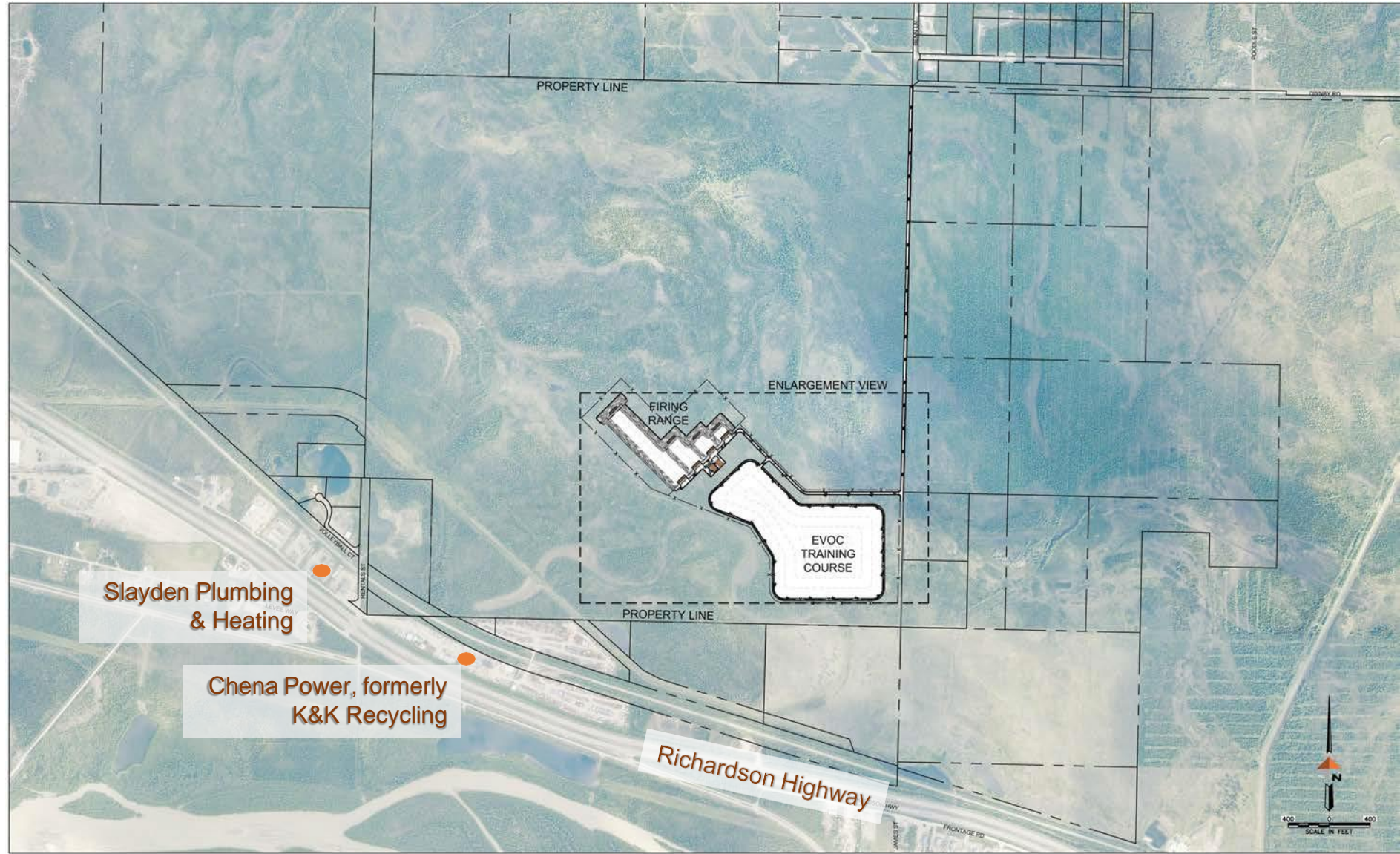
Zoning: General Use – 1/
Groundwater Damage Protection

Wetland: ~ 593 acres of the 619 gross acres encumbered by wetlands

Floodplain: Not located within a special flood hazard area

Ownership: FNSB

Size: 619 acres



SITE 2 - CONCEPTUAL SITE PLAN





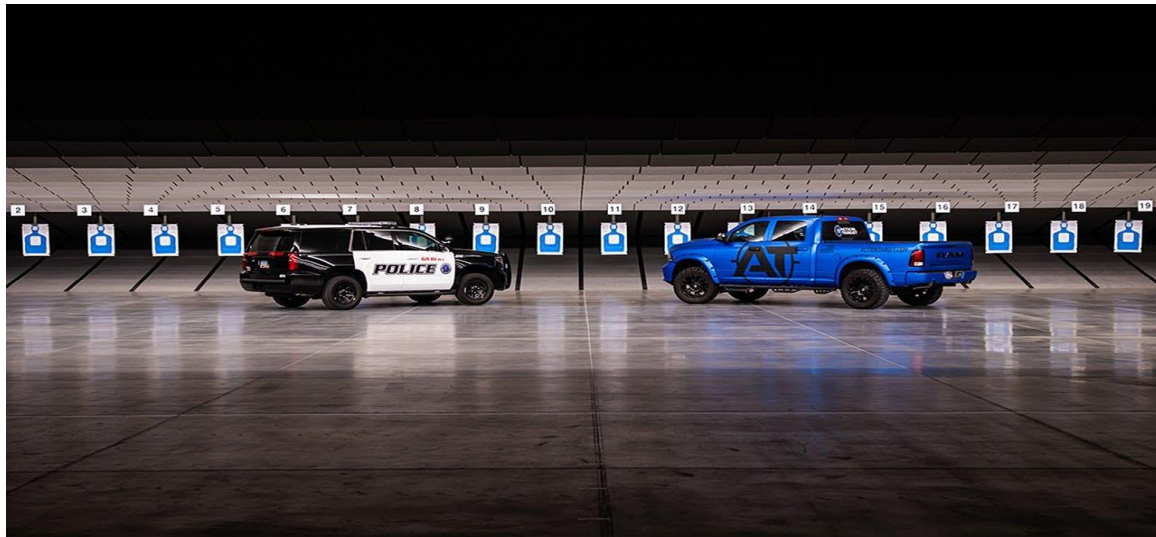




PHASED CONSTRUCTION AND FUNDING

Phase	Phase Description	Phase Estimated Cost
Phase 1	Design and property acquisition	\$525,000
Phase 2	<i>RANGES - Site prep, electrical, construction of shooting range pads, canopies, berms, bullet traps, and fencing</i>	\$5,500,000
Phase 3	<i>BUILDINGS - Site prep, utilities, construction of training building and warm storage building.</i>	\$3,200,000
Phase 4	<i>EVOC - Emergency Vehicle Operations Course, site prep, utilities, and construction of the course.</i>	\$4,000,000

Option #2 – An indoor 175' x 350' 100 yard shooting range



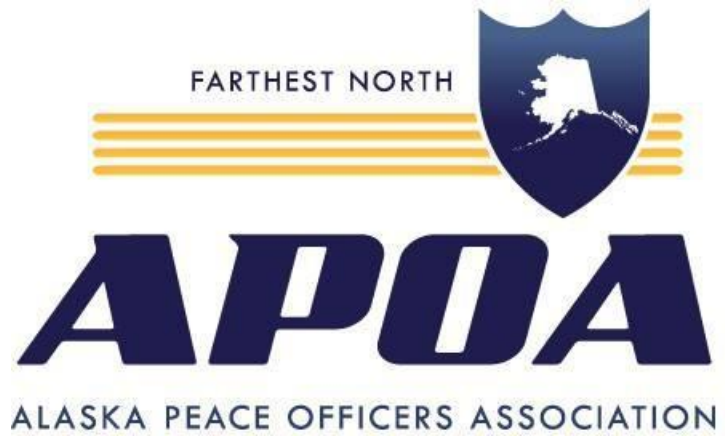
NEXT STEPS AND WHAT WE NEED FROM THE PUBLIC

- Farthest North Chapter of the APOA will
 - continue to take your feedback and questions
 - continually work towards full funding the Interior Training Facility
 - request resolutions of support from local governments
 - *FNSB recently submitted their support for the project*



THANK YOU...

Any questions or comments? Please call or email
Steve Dutra sdutra@northpolepolice.org; 907.488-6902



INTERIOR TRAINING FACILITY

Prepared for:

Alaska Peace Officers Association
125 Snowman Lane
North Pole, AK 99705

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Appendix A: APD Rental agreement

1 Executive Summary

Following the closure of the only outdoor public safety range near Fairbanks, Alaska, representatives from area public safety agencies, informally referred to as the Public Safety Coalition (PSC), in coordination with the Farthest North Chapter of the Alaska Peace Officers Association (APOA), identified the need for a safe, secure, training range facility for area public safety personnel. A legislative grant was awarded in 2019 for the preliminary design and planning for a public safety Interior Training Facility (ITF). APOA, as the nonprofit trade organization for area peace officers, supports the effort as the initial grant recipient and representative organization for the project, in coordination with the public safety agency representatives.

At the end of 2019, the Don J. Bennett APOA Shooting Range, the only outdoor public safety range in the Fairbanks North Star Borough (FNSB), was permanently closed by the FAA, Department of Transportation and Public Facilities. The range was used by area public safety personnel and others for nearly 50 years. The closure left area law enforcement and public safety agencies without a firing range. The available public and private options in the Fairbanks North Star Borough (FNSB) do not provide adequately safe and functional training facilities for public safety personnel. As the Interior's peace officer trade organization, APOA is well situated to provide the coordination and management to make the Interior Training Facility a long-term success.

The first and most flexible in funding is **OPTION #1**, would be a basic range to replace the range closed in 2019. One outdoor range with the capacity to shoot 100 yards with a width of 50 yards. This range would be the least expensive and most flexible version with annual maintenance costs of around \$5,000 to \$10,000, all covered by This cost could range from \$1 to \$6 million depending on amenities. This range could also fit on a 30-35 acres. Cost would be determined by funding. If we receive \$1 million, we could build a small but useful single 100 yard range. If we received \$6 million we could build a fully functioning multi bay range with heat and adequate amenities. Anything in between would add more ranges and adapt design.

The third desired version, **OPTION #2** of the training facility would be an indoor facility capable of indoor year round qualifications and large enough to drive vehicles inside and conduct multi-directional shooting with rifle or handgun with at least 10 bays at a 100 yards. This facility would have classrooms inside and offer a great facility for everyone to use, but the costs are expected to be near \$8 \$10 million. There is also a possible site that has heating augmented to help make heating this facility less expensive. This project could be placed on a small parcel of 5-10 acres depending on geography. The driving pad could be placed in a separate location if needed.

The original conceptual design, called **OPTION #3**, included four firing ranges (25, 50, 100, and 300 yards), training and storage buildings, and a 28-acre emergency vehicles operations course. Based on research, surveys, and interviews DOWL conducted in support of this business plan, APOA has chosen to focus the Interior Training Facility on the public safety officers' greatest need firing ranges that are safe, affordable, and compliant with

environmental laws and regulations. The facilities are expected to include four firing ranges, although the number could be altered to match available construction funds. Cost estimates for this entire facility are in the \$10 - \$13 million. A full business plan was developed around this idea.

The ITF is expected to be used by 10 public safety agencies encompassing more than 500 personnel. Agencies expected a need for concurrent use of five to 30 people at a range. While year-round use is expected, more than 85% of training is likely to occur from Mar - Oct.

As the local peace officer industry group and certified 501(c)(6) nonprofit, APOA can help coordinate with stakeholders and to use internal resources, contracted labor, and pool member resources to provide the managerial and administrative support to operate and maintain the range for the interest of the Interior public safety-community. APOA has a unique interest to provide the public-private partnership. For agencies that are willing and able to aid, APOA expects to implement agreements outlining responsibilities for managing and maintaining the facility for the Interior peace officers.

A second funding option, put forth by Governor Dunleavy, was an outdoor range on state land paid for with state funding and managed through the Department of Public Safety. This facility would be maintained with an MOU between user agencies.

Interior public safety agencies are budget constrained and the sites that are currently available and/or have been used in the past have been low cost or free. The airport training facility eventually levied a \$1,000 per year agency fee and agencies frequently cited that amount as being on the high end of an acceptable annual fee. Since the initial surveys were conducted, four state and local agencies have each tentatively committed a maximum of \$20,000 per year each in user fees to help cover the expected expenses, which highlights the importance of the facility.

The expected revenue (~\$90,000) should cover the expected expenses (~\$74,100) if the facility is a true Interior Training Facility with full range, EVOC, and training buildings. If the range project is realized as a range only the costs would be significantly lower.

OPTION #3 (picture of Gilbert AR training facility)



2 Proposed Infrastructure

2.1 Site Selection

On behalf of the Alaska Peace Officers Association (APOA), DOWL is assisting with site selection for a new Interior training facility. The goal of this site selection study was to identify sites that could be efficiently developed to accommodate the APOA Interior Training Facility while providing a high level of safety and functionality for public safety personnel and compatibility with surrounding uses. The study also considered the cost effectiveness of potential sites in terms of acquisition and development costs. It was determined that at least 40-50 acres is needed to allow adequate space for the firing ranges, training and storage buildings, and an emergency vehicles operations course (EVOC) and provide a buffer from the surrounding area. Additional acreage for acoustic and safety buffer would be ideal. a

Ten sites in the FNSB were identified and evaluated (see Figure 1).

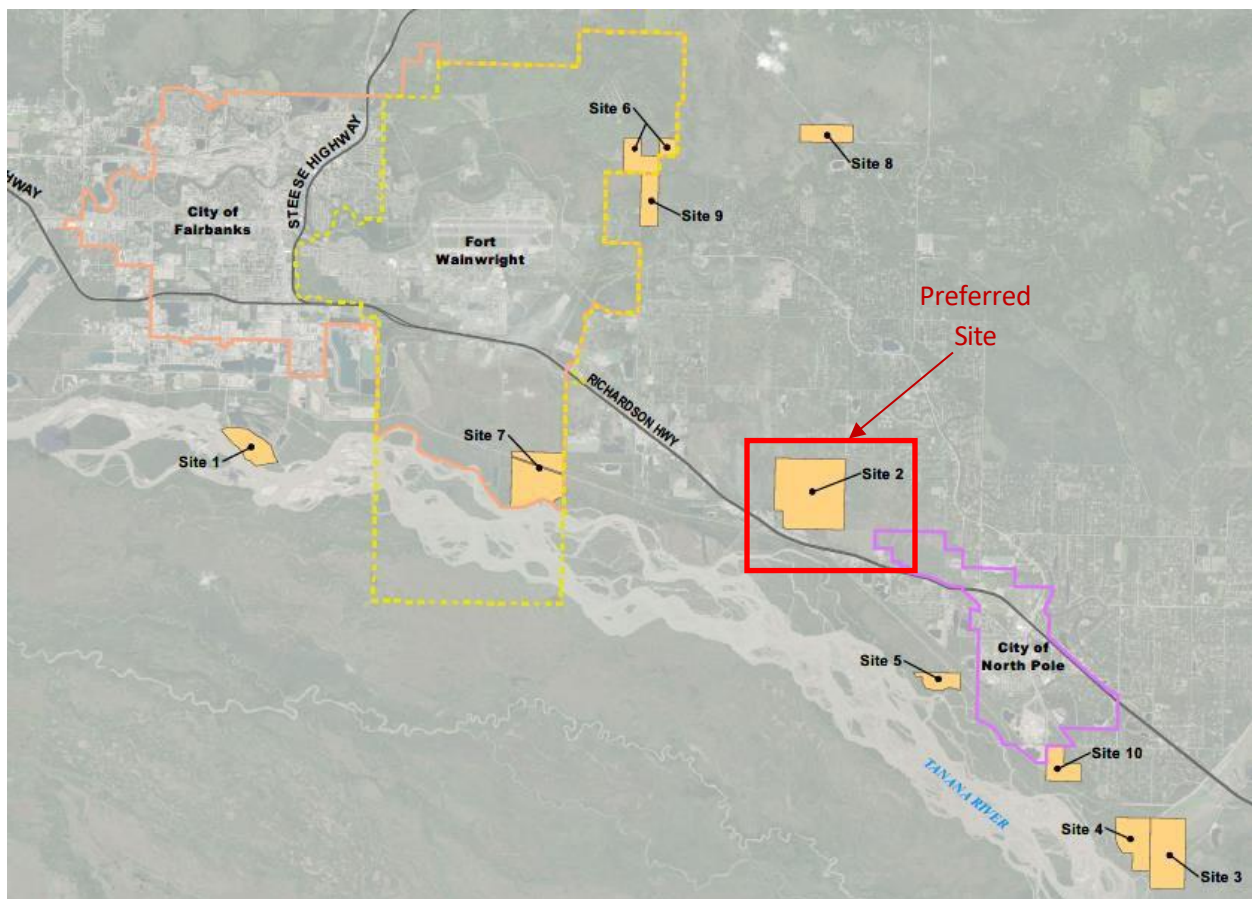


Figure 1: Sites Evaluated for Locating the ITF

The following criteria were used in the initial analysis of potential sites.

- Location
- Size
- Zoning District
- Accessibility

- Environmental Sensitivity
- Soil and Drainage
- Availability of Utilities
- Acquisition and Development Cost

2.1.1 Preferred Site

A comprehensive list of potential sites was developed with 10 sites selected for further analysis. Of those 10 sites, Site 2 (see Figure 1) was determined to be the most suitable for future development of the required use. The site is located along the northeast side of Richardson Highway, between Fairbanks and North Pole. The most recent design envisions site access to be provided via an approximately one-half-mile-long private road/driveway from Ownby Road and Benn Lane at the northeast corner of the property. Other points of access, including from the Richardson Highway, may be possible as well.

The property is owned by the FNSB. The undeveloped parcel is 619 acres, most of which are encumbered with wetlands. Based on preliminary discussions with the FNSB, it might be possible for APOA to acquire the property through purchase or the FNSB may donate the land with an Assembly action (DOWL, 2020). No decision has been made and all options must be approved by the FNSB Assembly and as of January 2023 no decision has been made as to the method or possibility of acquisition.

If the parcel proves to be too challenging or expensive to develop, APOA will continue to search for a suitable location for the Interior Training Facility.

Governor Dunleavy has asked that DPS include funding and help allocate land to place such a facility on State of Alaska land. Gov. Dunleavy also asked for an agreement from each agency to help offset costs to operate such a facility. This funding would not occur until the 2025 budget cycle but no decisions have been made.

2.2 OPTION #3 - Facility Description

2.2.1 Original Facility Plan

The original facility site plan included classrooms, heated storage for the preservation of training supplies, and four outdoor ranges for several agencies to train simultaneously. The new facility was also expected to include a large pad for a driving course, which is vital to outdoor emergency vehicle operations. See Figure 2 for the layout of the original facility plan.

This project was originally envisioned to be developed in four phases. After acquiring the selected site and completing the design, the next priority was constructing the outdoor range bays that can be put to use as soon as possible. Future phases of development and associated budget requests called for the construction of the training building, warm storage, and driving course. The total capital cost was expected to be more than \$13 - \$14 million (DOWL, 2021). An example of the facility idea see [Gilbert Public Safety Training Facility | Town of Gilbert, Arizona \(gilbertaz.gov\)](https://gilbertaz.gov). By reducing the full pad to streets we would save money over original estimates

Phase 1: **\$525,000**
Project design and property acquisition

Phase 2: **\$5,500,000**
Ranges - Site prep, electrical, construction of shooting range pads, canopies, berms, bullet traps, and fencing

Phase 3: **\$3,200,000**
Buildings - Site prep, utilities, and construction of training building and warm storage building

Phase 4: **\$4,000,000**
EVOC - Emergency Vehicle Operations Course, site prep, utilities, and construction of the course



Figure 2: Original ITF Site Plan

2.2.2 Expected Facility Use

Ten local, state, and federal public safety agencies including police departments, correctional facilities, and the military indicated interest in using the Interior Training Facility. The 10 agencies have more than 500 officers who would likely use the ITF (DOWL, 2021).

2.2.2.1 *Emergency Vehicle Operations Course (EVOC) and Training Buildings*

Through online surveys and interviews, the agencies indicated that the EVOC would likely be used for a total of up to 35 times over the course of the year by all agencies, including during the winter. Respondents requested lighting for the EVOC.

The intended use of the training building was significantly more than the EVOC, with more than 100 classroom days expected for training to coincide with firing range use and other types of training (DOWL, 2021).

Based on interviews with multiple vendors, calculations based on the specifications, and typical assumed operations and maintenance (O&M) values, the combined O&M for the ITF was

estimated to be more than \$750,000 per year. Nearly two-thirds of this estimate was for clearing snow from the EVOC. Other key cost drivers included lighting the EVOC and ranges as initially designed.

The stakeholders contacted by online survey and interview did not indicate a sufficient use of the training buildings and EVOC or a sufficient willingness to pay at this time to cover the operational expenses for these facilities.

2.2.2.2 Firing Ranges –

The agencies all indicated a need to use the ITF for periodic firearm certifications and basic and advanced training. Based on the primary needs and firearms used by the agencies, the 25-yard, 50-yard, 100-yard, and 300-yard range were all indicated as being vital to at least one agency. The shorter ranges were likely to see the most use.

Agencies expected that the range would need to be able to handle groups of up to 30 people at a time. Small groups (fewer than 10 people) were the most likely to use the range concurrently.

Based on surveys and interviews, agencies indicated that the ranges and training facility would need to accommodate the following firearms and alternative, non-lethal force alternatives.

- Handguns: .40 caliber, .45 caliber, M-9 (9mm), M-18 (9mm), .44-magnum
- Rifles: M-4 (.223), .556 caliber, .308 caliber barrier and match sniper rounds
- Shotguns: 12-gauge shotguns, including slugs and buckshot
- Other: OC (pepper spray), dart guns, muzzleloaders

To provide more realistic training, respondents stated that barricades and obstacles (including automobiles) were needed for practical training. Depending on the agency involved, other stationary and moving training aids may be required.

The firing range would be needed primarily in spring through fall (see Table 1) but most agencies require a site for training or certifications during winter in order to accommodate real-life conditions, new officers, and/or certifications on new firearms (DOWL, 2021).

Table 1: Expected Seasonal Use of ITF

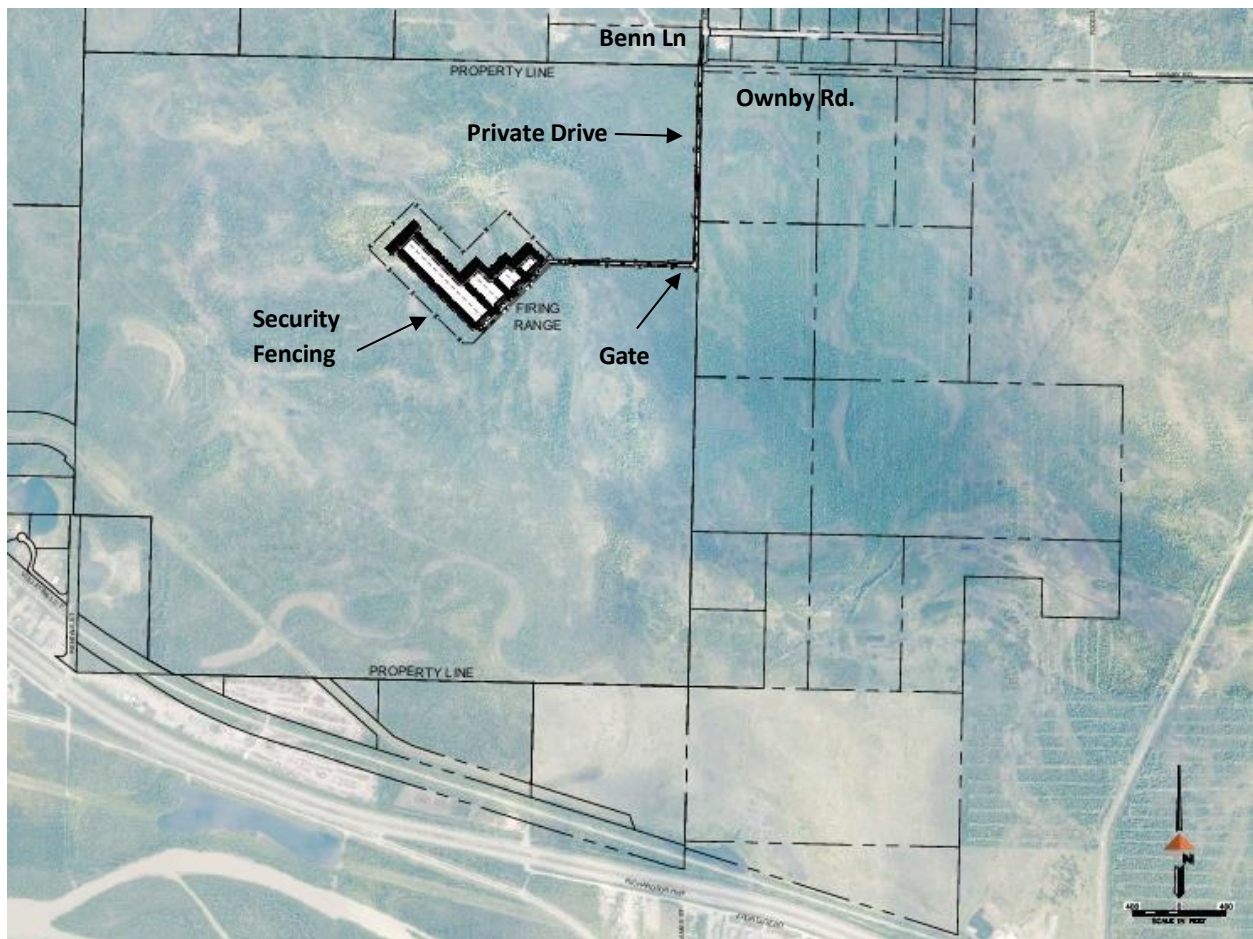
TIME OF YEAR	PERCENT OF EXPECTED USE
WINTER (NOV-FEB)	13%
SPRING (MARCH-APRIL)	25%
SUMMER (MAY-AUGUST)	35%
FALL (SEPT-OCT)	26%

All of the agencies reported that heat and stadium-style lights for targets would aid in training.

2.2.3 Current Facility Plan

Based on expected use from stakeholders and the immediate need for a safe firing range, APOA decided not to include the EVOC and training buildings in this business plan.

Final design for the ITF is still to be completed. With an eye on managing operational costs utilities, snow removal, lead management while still meeting user needs, the components and layout of the ITF may be changed. Relative to the initial conceptual design, the most recent site plan has been moved north to reduce the length of the private road and, in turn, cost of plowing. Other site layouts and access routes may be explored, and the design may be changed as planning continues.



*Figure 3: ITF Site Location –
OPTION #1 – No EVOC Pad*

Ranges: The current design includes four firing ranges 25-yard, 50-yard, 100-yard, and 300-yard with covered firing points. The covered firing points tentatively includes heating and lighting. Depending on the availability of funding and the cost effectiveness of phasing the development, the initial development may include fewer than four ranges.

The ranges will be designed to meet the management practices outlined in the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) *Best Practices for Lead at Outdoor Shooting Ranges* (Environmental Protection Agency, 2005). The surface of the range will be designed to balance the needs of a safe training surface, ease of removing snow, and reducing the likelihood of lead contamination. For ease of lead mining, ballistic rubber is specified for the range backstop.

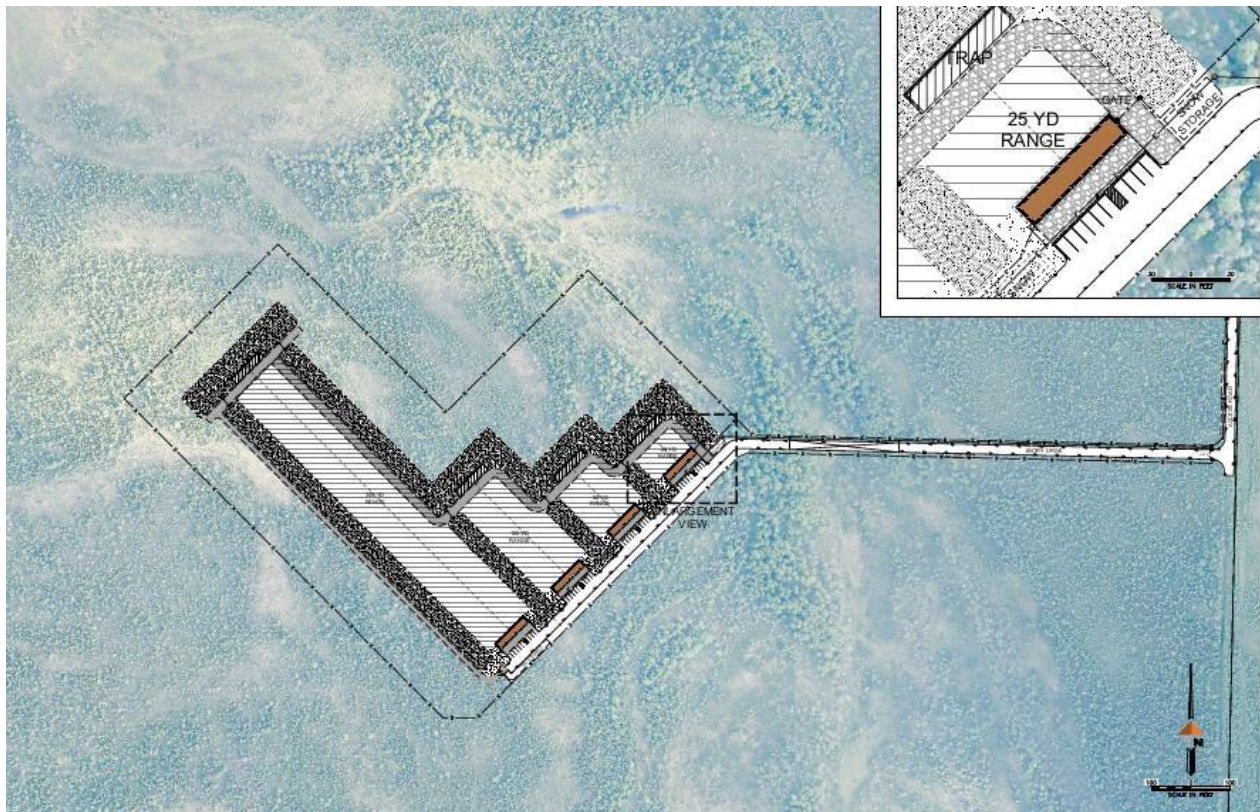


Figure 4: ITF Ranges –Option #1

Lighting: The current design includes lighting for the road, parking lot, and at the firing ranges both at the covered firing points and the targets.

Table 2: Lighting Power

Location	kW
Roadway Lighting	1.2
Parking Lot Lighting	0.5
Firing Range Lighting (under)	1.7
Firing Range Lighting (targets)	16.7

Heating: If heating at the firing points is included in the final design, it will be provided by six 60,000 Btu/hour propane heaters.

Site access: Relocating the firing ranges has reduced private road/driveway to approximately half-mile. A motorized gate is planned to be placed where the private drive takes a 90-degree turn west toward the ranges (see Figures 3 & 4). Fencing will limit the public’s access to the facility. Eleven parking spaces (including one ADA-compliant space) will be provided for each range.

For the initial development, APOA does not expect to need onsite water, sewer, or telecommunications, but an analysis will be performed to evaluate the additional costs of

installing utilities after the site has been developed instead of as part of the initial development. As the ITF expands to include a training building, onsite water and septic system will be built and phone/internet will need to be brought to the site.

3 Management Structure

3.1 Structure

Ongoing discussions between APOA, DPS and stakeholders are still working to define the management structure for the ITF, with the aim to have a collaborative coalition to reduce costs and meet the needs for all stakeholders. The business plan assumes that all facility management will be performed by APOA, APOA members, and member agencies at no cost to the facility. The legal agreements that will need to exist to limit and allocate risk and liabilities for all parties involved are outside the scope of this business plan and should be developed with the assistance of APOA's legal counsel.

The management structure shown in Figure 5 includes the job functions that need to be performed, but does not assume any individual, agency, or contracted entity will perform the work. Many of the functions could be performed by the same person and/or people. It is not expected that the work will take much time in any given week, but it is important that proper maintenance, safety, and financial procedures are followed.

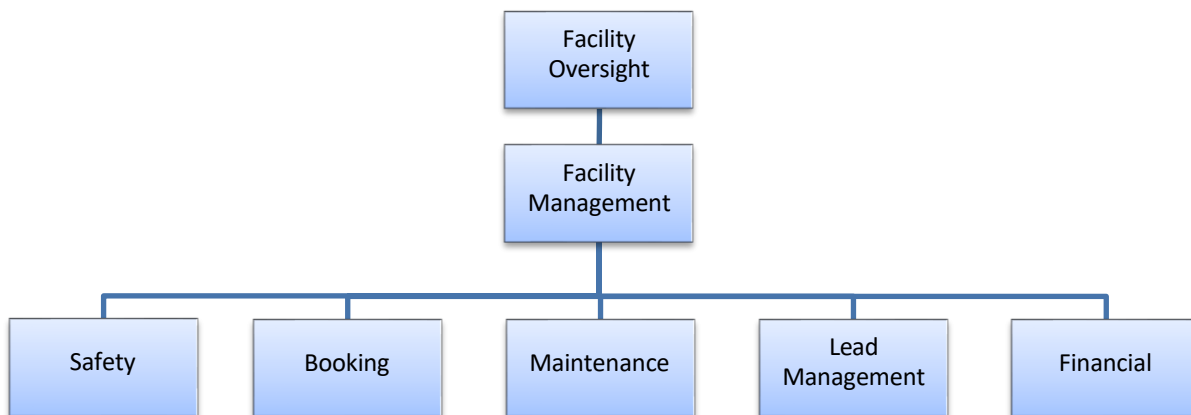


Figure 5: Management Structure

Especially if it is expected that many people will cycle through job functions, it is very important that APOA have clear and consistent policies and procedures to guide people and keep track of what has and what hasn't been done. Properly setting up the policies and procedures may be time intensive and require legal counsel to ensure that APOA's risk and liability is contained.

Facility oversight: APOA should form a committee to provide strategy, direction, and oversight financial, maintenance, safety, etc. of the training facility. The individuals must have the interests of APOA first and foremost. Especially if the operation and maintenance of the ITF is split amongst many agencies, the committee will need to keep track of how the facility is used, what maintenance needs to be performed, and other considerations that will safeguard APOA's investments and limit its risk.

Facility Management: One or more persons should be appointed to be ultimately responsible for taking care of the day-to-day, annual, and multi-year projects. While this can be accomplished with multiple people, it will require close coordination so important tasks don't fall through the cracks.

Safety: APOA must implement a process to limit liability and keep maintenance costs low. This process may be at odds with how members may want to use the ITF. The process should include a (1) Plan for facility restrictions and requirements, (2) Procedure for credentialing users, and (3) Procedures for enforcing facility rules. See the Anchorage Police Department's User Agreement in Appendix A for an example.

- 1) Plan for facility restrictions and requirements: APOA must have written rules for how the facility is to be used. The facility's rules should include what users can and cannot do to ensure a safe and cost-effective facility. For instance, tracer bullets can cause the rubber backstop material to catch fire and certain types of training aids can cause ricochets and other hazardous conditions. Users should be required to pick up after themselves, including their spent casings.
- 2) Procedure for credentialing users: Facility users will need to be credentialed to ensure they understand the facility rules. Training for credentialing will be required for any group using the facility, as one person on site must be credentialed and responsible for the other users. This process will help to limit and transfer liability from the facility owner to the facility users. Per the APD, the process of instructing and validating takes approximately three hours for each credentialed user. Users should know the consequences for not abiding by the rules.
- 3) Procedure for enforcing facility rules: A plan must be in place to ensure the rules are followed and, if agencies or agency personnel do not abide by the user agreement, someone will need to be responsible for managing the consequences.

Booking: To book the facility, an agency or person should put in a written request that includes a description of how the facility will be used. The person doing the booking will need to check the credentials of the applicant, make sure that the requested use of the facility is consistent with the user agreement, and take payment. This documentation will be included in the facility's lead management documentation.

Maintenance & Operations: APOA must plan for someone to manage the day-to-day operations and maintenance, including snow removal, contracting for range maintenance and repairs, and other things such as the portable toilet.

Lead management: As the owner and operator of the firing range, APOA can be held liable for any lead pollution caused by its users. Suits can be brought by citizens or the government while the range is operational or after it has closed. Because of the extent of liability, it is imperative that APOA have a lead management plan and ensure that it is implemented.

- Annual: The lead management plan will depend on the surface, water, soil type and acidity, amount of use, and other factors. At a minimum, it will include periodic cleanup of spent rounds on the firing range and snow collection area. Additional activities may include altering the pH of the soil, water testing, and storing collected spent rounds. Some of this work may need to be performed by qualified contractors.
- Lead mining of backstop: Depending on the amount of use, the lead in the backstop may need to be removed every two to five years. A qualified contractor must do this work and the lead must be disposed of or recycled properly, or APOA could be held accountable.
- Record keeping: To meet EPA's Best management Practices, records of shipments of lead to the receiving facilities should be retained to demonstrate that the lead was recycled (Environmental Protection Agency, 2005).

Financial APOA will need to pay bills for contractors and accept payments from users consistent with the rules as a 501(c)(6) non-profit entity.

Other. It should be expected that things won't always run smoothly, and that someone will have to assist when people can't get in the facility because a code doesn't work, or the gate won't open. Other times the road may not be accessible, or users didn't clean up properly. Someone will likely need to periodically check the range to see if anything needs repairing or cleaning.

3.2 Agency Involvement

To keep costs low, it is expected that APOA members and local/state/federal peace officer agencies will assist in the operation and management of the ITF. Based on survey and interview responses from potential users, only three or four agencies indicated a willingness and ability to assist in managing the facility. For those unwilling or unable to assist, the reasons stated by respondents included the liability of managing a facility not owned and fully operated by the agency and restrictions imposed on how state and federal funds can be used.

For those agencies willing and able to assist with the ITF, the legal counsel for APOA and the agencies will need to work to reduce and allocate risk between partners.

If agencies are unable or unwilling to provide management and/or administrative support, the costs to run the firing range will increase as one or more contractors may be needed to provide the required functions.

4 Financial Data

Based on interviews and research from multiple stakeholders, potential vendors, and online sources, the potential expenses and revenue sources were compiled for the Interior Training Facility. The range of possibilities for expenses and revenue will be narrowed in as the design is finalized. It is expected that some of the largest potential expenses, such as property taxes and ongoing permitting requirements, can be reduced or zeroed out.

Based on the most likely expenses and revenue, the ITF is expected to have positive net revenue. Expected revenue depends on the legislative process for local, state, and federal agencies.

Table 3: Expected Net Revenue

CATEGORY	EXPECTED VALUE
EXPENSES	\$ 74,100
EXPECTED REVENUE	\$ 90,000
EXPECTED NET REVENUE	\$ 15,900

Numerous design and operational decisions could impact the annual costs significantly.

4.1 Expenses

While the final design may be able to reduce capital and operating costs, the expenses included below are estimates based on the current site, site design, and specifications. When possible, the estimates have been based on one or more estimates from local vendors.

Table 4 includes three columns for the estimated annual expenses: Expected, High, Low.

- **Expected** These estimates include current design elements based on the stakeholder surveys and interviews. The current design has elements to reduce costs by reducing and eliminating amenities. The expenses below are based on an assumed design for a daylight range, without supplementary heat at the firing points, and portable toilets instead of a well and septic system.
- **High** These are the highest estimates for operating the firing range and/or the worst-case scenario (such as no property tax exemption).
- **Low** These are the lowest estimates based on the lowest level of amenity, lowest use, and longest possible maintenance cycles.

Table 4: Facility Expenses

ESTIMATED ANNUAL EXPENSES				
	Annual/Multi-year	Expected	High	Low
PROPERTY TAXES	Annual	\$0	\$ 106,000	\$0
FACILITY MANAGEMENT	Annual	\$0	\$90,000	\$0
UTILITIES				
ELECTRICITY	Annual	\$3,000	\$4,000	\$2,000
WATER	Annual	\$0	\$0	\$0
SEWER	Annual	\$0	\$0	\$0
TELECOMMUNICATIONS	Annual	\$0	\$0	\$0
INSURANCE	Annual	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000
SNOW REMOVAL	Annual	\$26,000	\$87,000	\$0
FIRING RANGE HEAT	Annual	\$0	\$3,000	\$0
SOLID WASTE	Annual	\$1,200	\$3,100	\$100
PORTABLE TOILET	Annual	\$3,600	\$5,400	\$3,600
PERMITTING REQUIREMENTS	Annual	\$Unk	\$Unk	\$Unk
BACKSTOP MATERIALS	Multi-year	\$7,000	\$14,000	\$3,500
LEAD RETRIEVAL	Multi-year	\$10,000	\$25,000	\$3,000
BACKSTOP MATERIALS	Multi-year	\$7,000	\$14,000	\$3,500
END OF LIFE RECLAMATION	Multi-year	\$10,000	\$270,000	\$0
RESERVE FUND	Multi-year	\$13,000	\$151,000	\$3,300
TOTAL		\$74,100	\$784,500	\$19,500

4.1.1 Annual Expenses

Property taxes Expected: \$0 High: \$106,000 Low: \$0

The approximately \$106,000 per year in property taxes, assuming a \$6 million assessed value, would make it very difficult to operate the facility. It is expected that APOA will be able to determine an arrangement either due to its non-profit status or some other agreement with the FNSB that will ensure that the facility is exempt from borough property taxes.

Facility Management Expected: \$0 High: \$90,000 Low: \$0

APOA expects volunteer labor from APOA staff, board members, members, and participating agencies. The high value assumes that a contractor averages 10 hours per week at \$150 per hour plus first year startup costs.

Utilities

○ **Electricity** Expected: \$3,000 High: \$4,000 Low: \$2,000

High value includes a high use schedule, lights being left on when not needed, and other operational inefficiencies. The low value includes only the expected use and no lights left on unnecessarily. The expected value includes some turned off, minimum needed for lights, and operations of the gate.

- **Water:** Not included in initial development until buildings included in design.
- **Sewer:** Not included in initial development until buildings included in design.
- **Telecommunication:** Not included in initial development until buildings included in design.

Insurance Expected: \$1,000 High: \$1,000 Low: \$1,000

The quote for insurance includes the firing range. Additional insurance may be required depending on the arrangements with volunteers, agencies, and contractors.

Snow removal Expected: \$26,000 High: \$87,000 Low: \$0

It is expected that a contractor will be required to clear the snow on the private drive to the firing range and at the range. While it is possible that the snow could be plowed by individual users instead of a contractor, there are risks associated with that option. Agencies may or may not allow their personnel to operate machinery owned by a third party on a third party's property. The facility will also be responsible for maintaining whatever machinery is used to clear the snow. If the machinery breaks down it may mean that users will be unable to access the site, and the owner will be responsible for repair costs, which may be high.

The expected estimate includes clearing snow only on the shortest two ranges. The low estimate assumes that cost is subsumed by another entity, such as the City of North Pole, that includes plowing within an existing contract.

Firing Range Heat Expected: \$0 High: \$3,000 Low: \$0

It is not expected that heating will be included in the final design, as most users indicated that it was not a priority.

The high estimate assumes that if heating was supplied, it would be with six 60,000 Btu/hour propane heaters for each of the four firing points. The cost assumes that no one accidentally leaves on the heat and that it is used four hours per rental period in the winter/shoulder season for an average of 60 hours per month over six months.

Solid waste Expected: \$1,200 High: \$3,100 Low: \$100

The expected value expects twice monthly trash collection with the smallest available receptacle. The high value expects weekly trash collection. Low end would require users to remove their own garbage and spent casings per the user agreement. APOA should provide garbage bags to make it easier for users to keep the facility clean.

Portable Toilet Expected: \$3,600 High: \$5,400 Low: \$1,800

The expected value assumes two units at \$150 per month per unit (\$1,800/unit/year).

Permitting requirements Expected: \$Unk High: \$ Unk Low: \$ Unk

It is currently unknown what types of ongoing requirements may be needed by any of the permitting and regulatory agencies.

Airport. Based on these tentative commitments, it is assumed that APOA will collect \$90,000 in user fees each year.

For the sake of comparison, the Anchorage Police Department's Birchwood training facility charges other agencies \$225/range/day. Used by more than a dozen local, state, and federal agencies (including military personnel), the range reportedly earns more than \$10,000 per month in revenue.

4.2.2 Revenue from Public Use

Allowing the public to use the facility could create another revenue source for the ITF. Unfortunately, the amount of potential revenue is unknown, and it would require a separate business plan to determine if enough people would pay enough fees for an outdoor range to be financially viable. Additionally, public access to the facility would open up the possibility of federal funding that comes through the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

The most likely option would be to build an adjoining public use firing range in the same area but have both separated with fencing and berms to allow public safety to have a isolated safe secure area out of public view to conduct operations and training.

Other complications that would need to be worked out if the ITF were opened to the public include:

- Additional expenses: It is expected that public access to the site will increase expenses by an unknown amount. Public use may make it more difficult to receive a property tax exemption from the FNSB.
- Permitting: Site location not evaluated for public use. Additional conditional use permit conditions may be needed, especially as the current design assumes access through residential roads. Other potential access routes have not been evaluated.

Section 5 Legal Authority & Issues

4.3 Ownership

The site is owned by FNSB Land Management with a 2020 FNSB assessed value of \$680,900. Based on discussions with the FNSB, the property or a part of the parcel could be sold or possibly donated through an assembly action. APOA is coordinating with the FNSB to determine the final acquisition process (DOWL, 2020).

The APOA's bylaws specifically allow for the acquisition of property: To purchase, lease, hold, sell, convey, develop, mortgage, hypothecate, or otherwise acquire or dispose of real and personal property necessary or proper in order to carry out the purposes of this Association (Alaska Peace Officers Association, 2017).

The ownership of the property by a non-profit entity may allow for an exemption from FNSB property tax, but the exemption requires Assembly approval.

APOA should work with their legal counsel to develop an ownership structure to limit APOA's risk from the firing range.

If for whatever reason the parcel proves too challenging or expensive to develop, APOA will continue to find a suitable location for the Interior Training Facility.

4.4 Land Use Planning

The proposed site is zoned General Use-1 / Groundwater Damage Protection (GU-1/GWP). Under this designation, lots must be at least 40,000 square feet. There are no front, side, or rear yard requirements and no limits on building height. This parcel meets zoning requirements, and the zoning designation supports the use.

Outdoor shooting ranges are permitted outright in the GU-1/GWP zone if the use meets the standards set forth in the supplementary regulations of the FNSBC Chapter 18.96; otherwise, an outdoor shooting range requires Conditional Use approval under FNSBC 18.104.050. Complying with the supplemental regulations of FNSBC 18.96.230, might represent a significant time savings cost, but achieved at the expense of enhanced site design (DOWL, 2020).

It is not expected that either the Conditional Use Permit or complying with the supplemental regulations of FNSBC 18.96.230 will require ongoing activities that will incur ongoing expenses if the use of the site does not change.

4.5 Regulations, Laws, Permits, and Licenses

Prior to purchasing or leasing the land, APOA should have a Phase 1 Environmental Site Assessment (ESA) to make sure that there is not any existing contamination. The ESA can also be used as a baseline to determine any changes that may have occurred due to the firing range.

4.5.1 Wetlands

Approximately 593 acres of 619 (87%) gross acres of the site are encumbered with wetlands. Based on the distribution of wetlands on site, impacts will likely range from 5 to 10 acres.

The site will require a US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) wetland permit for any disturbance to the on-site wetlands. It is important to note that further discussions with the FNSB and the United States Army Corp of Engineers is needed to determine the viability of permitting the wetlands and to discuss potential mitigation (DOWL, 2020). If land is leased, the FNSB may need to be a willing partner as they would be the applicant and responsible party for any commitments to the Corps.

Permitting requirements may affect the design and layout of the facility. The permitting requirements may also include ongoing activities such as monitoring, mitigation, and other measures. The cost and resources needed for these will be better understood as the facility's design is finalized and consultations with USACE progress. Mitigation is approximately \$15,000 per acre of impact, which is only when a mitigation bank (Tanana River Mitigation Bank) has available land. This would be a one-time payment.

4.5.2 Lead Management

APOA should develop an Environmental Stewardship Plan based on the site conditions at the firing range (City of Bremerton, 2015). As the types of lead mitigation and cleanup activities will be based on the soil chemistry, topography, surface water, and other factors associated with the site and design, the Stewardship Plan is outside the scope of this business plan. Following the plan and maintaining consistent documentation will reduce the likelihood of adverse consequences of lead contamination.

Several state and federal agencies, including the US Environmental Protection Agency and the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation, regulate lead at firing ranges. The consequences for not complying with the rules can be serious, including fines that can be up to half a million dollars and even include jail time. The EPA, states or citizens, using a civil lawsuit, can compel cleanup of lead shot and impose other costs on the owner and operator of the firing range.

No permit is needed to operate a firing range under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), because the lead shot/bullet is not considered a hazardous waste as it is being used for its intended purpose. The spent lead shot/bullets are subject to RCRA authority under sections 7002 and 7003. If the operator recycles or reuses the lead shot/bullets, the firing range does not need a RCRA generator number (Environmental Protection Agency, 2005).

Owners and operators must comply with the Clean Water Act for range design, redesign, construction, reclamation or remediation occurring in wetland areas (Environmental Protection Agency, 2005).

The Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) is the primary regulator for groundwater. Cleanup costs for contaminating groundwater can be exceptionally high.

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Appendix A: APD Rental agreement

1 **CITY OF NORTH POLE**

2 **RESOLUTION 18-16**

3 **A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING CITY OF NORTH POLE LEGISLATIVE**
4 **PRIORITIES FOR THE 31ST LEGISLATURE 2019 REGULAR SESSION**

5 **WHEREAS**, the City of North Pole considers resolutions through the year to support legislative
6 and policy actions of the State and other local governments; and

7 **WHEREAS**, the City of North Pole is concerned with Statewide and Federal issues that affect
8 the City and its residents; and

9 **WHEREAS**, the following list is a list of issues that the City feels are important to residents of
10 the City of North Pole, State of Alaska and Citizens of the United States;

11
12 **#1 Priority, Legislative adoption of an equitable and sustainable Alaska Public Employee**
13 **Retirement System where the City of North Pole pays half and the State of Alaska pays the**
14 **other half.:**

15 **Cost: \$450,000**

16 The City of North Pole strongly urges the Legislature to adopt a sustainable plan that will
17 reduce by half the **current twenty two percent (22%)** contribution paid on behalf of our
18 employee salaries and wages to the Alaska State mandated Public Employee Retirement
19 System (**PERS**), to **only an eleven percent (11%)** contribution, leaving the remainder to
20 be paid by the State.

21 Over the past **six (6) years**, from 2013-2018, the City of North Pole has paid circa
22 **\$5,200,000** in contributions to the PERS system which exceeds our expenditures for the
23 budget year of 2013 alone. Our PERS contribution equates to nearly \$400 annually for
24 every resident of North Pole, and currently exceeds **14 cents (\$0.14)** of every dollar that
25 is spent to operate the City. This incredible expense is no longer sustainable to this small
26 city .We need to hire new police officers, firefighters, and support staff to be trained and
27 ready to deal with this large influx of new citizens, yet we are unable to hire new safety
28 and first responders, or procure desperately needed equipment because of the inequitable
29 taxing burden that PERS puts on the resources of North Pole.

30 North Pole is in a growth stage, mostly due to the expansion at Eielson AFB, which will
31 easily double our population within the next 2 years, from nearly 2,200 to more than
32 5,500 by end of year 2020, and quite possibly 6,500 by the end of 2024. We must make
33 wise use of our limited revenues to pay for a larger city. Therefore, it is incumbent on the
34 Legislature to meet the City of North Pole at least halfway by paying half of the 22%, as
35 well as making a plan to fully correct the PERS system no later than the year 2025.

36

37 **# 2 Priority, North Pole Utility:**

38 **Cost: \$2 million**

39 The City of North Pole's North Pole Utility serves approximately 600 utility customers
40 within the city limits including the Petro Star Refinery, GVEA Power Plant and Flint
41 Hills Resources petroleum tank farm and numerous other commercial enterprises.
42 Without the Utility's wastewater treatment plant, the majority of the Utility's customers
43 have no other options for wastewater disposal, including the local industries.

44 The channel where the North Pole Utility discharges treated wastewater has lost surface
45 water flow on two occasions—in 2012 and 2013. Lower than normal river flows have
46 been observed since 2013. After the loss of surface river flow in 2013, the Alaska
47 Department of Environmental Conservation issued the Utility a Notice of Violation
48 (NOV). The reason for the NOV is without surface water flow, the treated wastewater
49 does not immediately begin to mix with the Tanana River making the Utility in violation
50 of its Alaska Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit (APDES). The NOV
51 requires the City to resolve the conditions that resulted in the issuance of a NOV.

52 To resolve the NOV, the Utility is planning to construct a new sewer discharge sewer
53 main that is approximately 7,000 feet to a reliable channel of the Tanana River. The
54 Utility had previously secured a State of Alaska legislative grant to finance a majority of
55 the engineering and design costs. The engineering and design are completed along with
56 the request to bid package making the project "shovel ready". To help accelerate the
57 construction of the sewer main, the Utility has begun to require necessary permitting that
58 the construction contractor would typically acquire. Having the permits in advance of the
59 project going to bid will accelerate construction. The Utility also needs to conduct a
60 multi-year channel flow analysis to calculate the mixing zone required for the project.

61 One reason the cost of the sewer main extension is high is the location where it must be
62 installed—in wetlands and a flood plain. The sewer main construction not only involves
63 installation of a sewer pipe, but also an access road to provide access for maintenance.
64 Having to work in wetlands increases the difficulty of the work increasing the
65 construction costs. Adding to the cost construction is the climate in Interior Alaska and
66 the length of the sewer main. Local temperatures can drop to as low as 60 degrees below
67 zero. Subzero temperatures are common from November through March. Frozen ground
68 can penetrate to ten feet deep. The ground does not typically completely thaw to depth
69 until June. The Utility uses a passive treatment process—aerated lagoons that use
70 naturally occurring bacteria to treat the sewage. After the water passes through the
71 treatment process, its temperature is only slightly above freezing. Treated wastewater that
72 travels through over a mile of buried pipe, even when the pipe is heavily insulated, can
73 freeze. To prevent freezing, active freeze protection of the sewer main must also be

74 included in the construction cost—an electric heat trace or heat exchangers to add heat to
75 the treated wastewater.

76 Due to the climate in Interior Alaska, the construction season is short, typically May
77 through September. The project can only be bid when the City has 100% of the necessary
78 funding. For construction to begin in one summer construction season, bidding must not
79 occur later than April so all funding must be in place at the time. Also, due to the short
80 construction season, the project is expected to require two construction seasons. The
81 earliest the project could go to construction is May 2021. Each year the project is delayed
82 will result in increased costs due to construction cost inflation. Davis-Bacon wage
83 requirements and the mandated use of US produced steel also add to increased cost for
84 the project.

85 The initial construction cost estimate generated by Stantec Consulting for the Utility in
86 2015 for the project was \$3.7 million. The Utility acquired a \$500,000 SOA Legislative
87 Award in 2014 to finance engineering and design costs. Subtracting the \$500,000 already
88 expended on the project, the estimated construction cost in 2015 was \$3.2 million. The
89 North Pole Utility is requesting a Legislative Award of \$2 million dollars for the project.
90 The Utility is committed to contributing \$1 million of internal cash to the project.
91 Typically, the Utility would apply for a Municipal Matching Grant to fund this type of
92 infrastructure project, but MMGs are not available at this time. The balance of the project
93 costs will be paid with an Alaska Clean Water Fund (ACWF) loan that the Utility has
94 acquired.

95 **#3. Priority, North Pole Fire Department grant request for a Type One Fire Pumper:**

96 **Cost: \$800,000**

97

98 North Pole Fire Department is applying for funding to purchase a Type one fire pumper. The
99 new apparatus will meet the requirements of NFPA 1901, which addresses firefighter capabilities
100 and safety, and adds emphasis to required firefighter safety and operating capabilities of the
101 apparatus. The current pumper that will be replaced is well beyond its 20-year service life. This
102 purchase would provide a safe, functional, and cost-efficient apparatus.

103 The new pumper will have 1500 GPM pump, foam class B foam tank, water tank, hose bed
104 space, and a full complement of ground ladders. This configuration will streamline the
105 department's operation, maximize functional compartment space. We have estimated the base
106 cost of a new pumper at \$800,000.00, which is based on information from apparatus
107 manufacturers.

108 The North Pole Fire Department provides fire protection to Flint Hills resources and Petro Star
109 refinery. Petro Star produces 100% of the jet fuel used at the Fairbanks International Airport, 100%
110 of fuels used by Fort Wainwright, Eielson and Fort Greely Military Bases, 2,000 barrels per
111 day of fuel for electrical generation (180 megawatts) for Interior of Alaska. The Department of

112 Defense has cited the Refinery as a "critical asset" in its Alaskan military infrastructure. Finished
113 product form the refinery is shipped by rail through the City of North Pole by the Alaska Rail
114 Road.

115 The North Pole Fire Department shall be the primary first responders to the "Fairbanks Natural
116 Gas" North Pole facilities located inside the city of North Pole. Fairbanks Natural Gas will be
117 placing two 75,000-gallon tanks next to Petro Star refinery in 2019. In 2020 Fairbanks Natural
118 gas will build a two-million-gallon fixed structure at the site. This facility will be a critical asset
119 not just to the city of North Pole but the greater North Pole area as the infrastructure is built out
120 beyond the city's boundary.

121 North Pole Fire Department maintains the only foam pumper covering the eastern portion of the
122 Fairbanks North Star Borough covering over 120 square miles. The nearest mutual aid foam
123 pumpers are located 15 to 20 miles away which could lead to serious delays for fire and rescue
124 operations. North Pole is home to a tank farm, oil refinery, bulk natural gas storage, as well as the
125 bulk of the area's schools, commercial occupancies, and apartment complexes. Daily
126 operational needs for responding to fire and rescue operations at these target hazards clearly
127 show the need for a fire pumper.

128 Replacing the current pumper will aid in reducing maintenance costs not only by having a more
129 modern, dependable apparatus. Even with an excellent maintenance program the older pumper has
130 become an increasing burden. Repair costs have risen steadily as the pumper has aged, with
131 replacement parts becoming more difficult to obtain. In 2015 our current pumper was out of
132 service for over ninety days while a part was manufactured for a repair. The break down left the
133 North Pole community dependent on a mutual aid pumper for response 20 miles away.

134 As a small combination fire department, NPFDD is faced with a number of specific challenges in
135 its area of responsibility that makes it unique. Within the city limits of North Pole has an oil
136 refinery, tank farm, bulk liquid natural gas storage, and an electric power generation facility that
137 provide electrical power to the Interior of Alaska. While the City of North Pole in itself is small,
138 it contributes directly to The State of Alaska's economy and to our nation's national security.

139 The North Pole Fire Department's strategic goals include: ensuring firefighter safety, identifying
140 potential needs of the community and planning for future development, addressing the USFA
141 goals of reducing death and injuries to firefighters and high risk groups (young and elderly), to
142 prepare our firefighters for response to fire, hazardous materials incidents, natural disasters,
143 urban-wild land interface incidents and CBRNE/terrorist activities by ensuring they are trained
144 and equipped with the best NFPA compliant equipment and apparatus. Increased call volume,
145 higher population levels, and steady growth in the commercial and industrial sectors coupled with
146 decreased state funding indicate a greater need for developing local capabilities. A grant award to
147 NPFDD would help the department meet its goals of protecting life and property in a difficult
148 environment with the staffing challenges it faces in today's world. The department places the
149 safety of its responders as its highest priority, and will endeavor to meet its goal of equipping and

150 taking care of its members as the first and foremost goal.

151 **#4 Priority, North Pole Police Department request to obtain property and construct a law**
152 **enforcement firing range and training facility:**

153 **Cost: Approximately \$8 million.**

154 The City of North Pole has joined a collaborative regional effort to obtain property and
155 construct a law enforcement firing range and training facility. The only current law
156 enforcement range is located on the Fairbanks International Airport Property. Having a
157 shooting range/training facility on airport property has been historically problematic. The
158 current rules surrounding the range make basic training topics and drills difficult and
159 sometimes outright prohibited.

160 Current rules also prohibit law enforcement from bringing citizen groups (such as citizen
161 police academies) to the range during these public training programs. During 2018 area
162 wide law enforcement agencies were notified the firearms training range would be shut
163 down within the next year. There is currently no other firearms training facility, within
164 interior Alaska, which is capable to functioning as a training range.

165 A new range facility would be open to and serve every local, state, and federal law
166 enforcement agency within interior Alaska. It would also serve at the primary training
167 site for our Interior Alaska police academy. At a time when law enforcement is under
168 constant scrutiny and expected to perform as professionals, this must begin with a high
169 level of training and a professional training environment. It has also been noted that the
170 City of North Pole has multiple sites bordering the City of North Pole that would serve as
171 a great location for such a site.

172 **#5 Priority, Reduce the high cost of energy in the Interior and develop a statewide long**
173 **term energy goal.**

174 Reducing the high cost of energy in Interior Alaska requires a short, mid and long term
175 solution. A significant amount of work has been done already, and with the approval of
176 the IGU and Pentex acquisition, the interior is on its way to begin this process of
177 developing and implementing an energy plan. A statewide energy plan is still needed to
178 ensure we leave a respectable legacy for our future residents and encourage economic
179 development in the state of Alaska. The City of North Pole supports natural gas as a
180 short to midterm project and construction of a Large Diameter Gas Pipeline from the
181 North Slope to local and statewide markets as a long term project.

182

183 **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the North Pole City Council requests the 31st
184 legislature to consider timely and appropriate action on the issues mentioned.

185 **PASSED AND APPROVED** by a duly constituted quorum of the North Pole City Council this
186 _____ day of _____, 2018

187

188

Michael W. Welch, Mayor

189

190

191 **ATTEST:**

192

193

194 _____
Judy L. Binkley, North Pole City Clerk

PASSED/FAILED

Yes:

No:

Absent:

1 By: Bryce J. Ward, Mayor
2 Introduced: 02/28/2019
3 Adopted: 02/28/2019
4

5 FAIRBANKS NORTH STAR BOROUGH

6
7 RESOLUTION NO. 2019 – 06

8
9 A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF A LAW ENFORCEMENT FIRING RANGE & TRAINING
10 FACILITY FOR INTERIOR ALASKA
11

12 WHEREAS, Interior Alaska will soon lack a firearms training facility that is
13 capable of functioning as a training range; and
14

15 WHEREAS, There is a collaborative regional effort to obtain property and
16 construct a law enforcement firing range and training facility; and
17

18 WHEREAS, This facility would serve all local, state, and federal law
19 enforcement agencies within Interior Alaska; and
20

21 WHEREAS, This facility would also be used as the primary training facility
22 for the Interior Alaska Police Academy; and
23

24 WHEREAS, Despite the Borough's lack of law enforcement powers, the
25 safety of our residents is a high concern; and
26


27 WHEREAS, Providing a safe and secure facility for Interior Alaska law
28 enforcement officers so they can engage in high-quality and professional training is
29 essential and benefits the whole community.
30

31 NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Assembly of the Fairbanks
32 North Star Borough supports the development and construction of a law enforcement
33 firing range and training facility for Interior Alaska.
34

35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be provided to
36 the Interior delegation, the City of Fairbanks, the City of North Pole, and the Alaska
37 State Troopers.

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PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 28TH DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2019.



Matt Cooper
Presiding Officer

ATTEST:



April Trickey, CMC
Borough Clerk

Yeses: Williams, Tacke, Sanford, Gray, Lyke, Lojewski, Quist, Cooper
Noes: None
Other: Excused (Major)

RESOLUTION NO. 5036, AS AMENDED

**A RESOLUTION STATING THE CITY OF FAIRBANKS LEGISLATIVE
AND CAPITAL PRIORITIES FOR 2023**

WHEREAS, the City of Fairbanks appreciates any funding and support provided by the State of Alaska; and

WHEREAS, the City has identified the following legislative and capital priorities, and the public had an opportunity to comment on these priorities at the November 14 and November 28, 2022 regular City Council meetings.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council that the 2023 legislative and capital priorities of the City of Fairbanks are listed below:

2023 Legislative Priorities


1. Reduce the municipalities' PERS contribution rate from 22%
2. Provide relief from DEC PFOS/PFOA plume characterization requirements
3. Mitigate the City's liability regarding the PFOS/PFOA ground water contamination
4. Maintain a baseline of \$60 million annually in Community Assistance Program funding (formerly known as Revenue Sharing)
5. Allow Tier 1, 2, and 3 PERS retirees to return to work under Tier 4 to fill critical shortages and continue to collect retirement
6. Increase SART funding for Fairbanks to \$150,000 to meet current liability

2023 Capital Priorities

1. Public Works backup generator \$1 million
2. Redesign and construction of roads, sidewalks, and drainage in the Island Homes subdivision with a request of \$9.6 million
3. Construction of a Law Enforcement Training Facility in Interior Alaska with a request of \$6 million

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Clerk is directed to send copies of this resolution to the Office of the Governor and Interior Alaska Legislative Delegation.

PASSED and **APPROVED** this 28th day of November 2022.



David Pruhs, Mayor

AYES: Marney, Ringstad, Cleworth, Sprinkle, Rogers, Tidwell
NAYS: None
ABSENT: None
APPROVED: November 28, 2022

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:


D. Danyielle Snider, MMC, City Clerk


Paul Ewers, City Attorney

City of Fairbanks

2023 Legislative and Capital Priorities

Attachment to Resolution No. 5036, as Amended

Legislative Priorities:

1. **PERS Contribution Rate:** Less than half of the 22% the City of Fairbanks pays for its Tier IV employees benefits them, with the balance going to pay off the billions of dollars of legacy debt. Payments into the PERS system by Alaska municipalities were entrusted with the State of Alaska. Unfortunately, because of incredible lack of oversight and mismanagement, massive debts were incurred.

Compared to the City of Fairbanks' contributions to its various unions with their own pension plans, the PERS rate is extremely high and costly. The City respectfully asks that the legislature look at ways to reduce this burden upon municipalities which was incurred by the State of Alaska.

2. **PFOS/PFOA Plume Characterization:** The City of Fairbanks requests relief from the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) plume characterization requirements related to the Perfluorooctane Sulfonate (PFOS) / Perfluorooctanoic Acid (PFOA) contamination at the Fairbanks Regional Fire Training Center.
3. **PFOS/PFOA Liability Mitigation:** The City of Fairbanks requests State assistance in liability mitigation regarding the PFOS/PFOA contamination, with respect to the expected drop in the EPA Health Advisory Levels requiring additional wells to be decommissioned. There are many potentially liable agencies in the Fairbanks area, and the issue is much broader than the City of Fairbanks.
4. **Community Assistance Program (formerly known as Revenue Sharing):** The City of Fairbanks requests the State maintain the Community Assistance Program baseline at \$60 million or more annually.
5. **PERS Retirees:** The City of Fairbanks requests the State allow Tier 1, 2, and 3 PERS retirees to return to work under Tier 4 to fill critical shortages and be allowed to continue to collect their retirement.
6. **SART:** The City of Fairbanks requests that the SART funding dedicated to Fairbanks be increased to \$150,000 to help offset the current costs of the demands.

Capital Priorities:

1. **Generator:** The City of Fairbanks requests \$1 million to assist in the replacement of the emergency generator in the City of Fairbanks Public Works facility.

2. **Island Homes:** The City of Fairbanks requests \$9.6 million for the redesign and construction of roads, sidewalks, and drainage in the Island Homes subdivision.
3. **Law Enforcement Training Facility:** The City of Fairbanks requests \$6 million to be allocated for the construction of a Law Enforcement Training Facility for all Interior Alaska law enforcement agencies.