

Hammond proposes schools, roadwork for rural areas

In a budget address that called for conservative spending with some slight increase in the state's budget, Hammond made budget recommendations that would see massive school work in the Northwest Arctic School and Tanana area; extensive roadway construction in the Yukon, Tanana area; and school construction and upgrading in the Nome area.

In his address, Hammond criticized state legislators who are aiming at a zero state personnel growth goal for this year's budget, saying they aren't taking into account the problems of staffing several projects which the Legislature funded last year.

Those projects include a nursing home addition to the Anchorage Pioneer home, which Hammond said will add 39 members to that staff, and a court-mandated staff addition to the state correctional institutions.

Hammond's speech was criticized by legislative members as a bureaucrat's speech to other bureaucrats.

State Rep. Al Adams, (D-Kotzebue), who is the chairman of the House Finance Committee which is aiming at a no-personnel growth budget, said he thought Hammond's budget contained enough capital improvement projects in some Bush areas and not enough in others.

According to the state spending limit legislation, voter approval must be given before lawmakers can go above the state spending limit

so some of Hammond's recommendations would require that approval, Hammond said.

Under the proposal the following budget recommendations were made for the following districts:

- * District 15, Aleutian Chain, a total of \$6,821,900 in appropriations including the Akutan school replacement, \$2,168,600 and the Atka School phase II, \$2,121,200; a shellfish pot replacement program for the Department of Fish and Game, \$132,100; and the Town Creek stream crossing, \$2,400,000. Under Hammond's plan, the Atka school project and the stream crossing would have to be approved by the voters.

- * District 16, Bristol Bay, a total of \$11,097,800 including \$2,100,000 for upgrading and safety work for the Southwest Region life safety codes, the Lake and Peninsula district school, and southwest district oil tank dyke; \$1 million to Dillingham local roads, new Koliganek road and bridge supports, the Twin Hills cannery road support; work on the King Salmon West airport apron, and the Dillingham pole shed for the state equipment fleet. All road work, the airport apron and pole shed would be subject to voter approval.

- * District 17, Bethel, a total of \$11,175,000 including upgrading on the Lower Kuskokwim Kilb school and the Mikel code upgrading, a Bethel office and housing for the department of Fish and Game, a Kuskokwim River gravel study,

runway and parking repair on the Bethel airport and improvement on the Cherfornak/Nightmute barge. Voter approval would be required on the school upgrading, the river gravel study, runway and parking repair and barge improvements.

- * District 18, Wade-Hampton area, a total of \$5,553,600, including site acquisition for the Iditarod Flat-Minchom school; Iditarod McGrath expansion, Yukon/Koyukuk district safety improvements, and the Lower Yukon Pitkas Point school repairs; St. Mary's equipment building, and the Galena Pump station construction. Votes would be required on the McGrath school expansion, the St. Mary's equipment building and the Galena pump station.

- * District 19, Yukon Tanana area, \$107,886,800 total including \$16,671,600 for school repairs and construction. That money would go to provide central heat for the Delta Greely school, Beattles Field school replacement, Yukon Flats Circle elementary and secondary school addition, Copper River Gakona school addition, Copper River Chistochina elementary addition, Alaska Gateway districtwide code upgrading, Yukon Flats Five-Mile, Central, Northern Lights school, the Railbelt Tri-Valley school, Ft. Greeley gym remodeling and a multi-purpose room addition, Northway secondary and elementary classroom remodeling, Yukon Flats Ft. Yukon gymnasium; Delta I, road linkage, Delta

II expansion, and Delta I loans; Delta fish and game office work; Coldfoot helicopter hangar, Dalton Highway housing; Healy Road construction and Alaska Highway rehabilitation; Tok Highway Mile 51-52 federal aid conversion; Interior bridge replacement and rehabilitation on the Northway Road;

Roadwork on the Richardson Highway Miles 129 to 186; miles 138 to 148, miles 127 to 129, and miles 192 to 208; Parks Highway from Rex to McKinley, Parks Highway from Nenana to Rex; Tok Highway miles 30 to 81 and the Yerrick area of the Alaska Highway;

A new airport costing \$66.6 million in Yukon Crossing, and Birch Creek runway extension costing \$1.6 million;

- * District 21, Barrow-Kotzebue area—\$18,953,000 total including \$2,038,000 for school upgrading in Kotzebue, Deering, Ambler, Noatak, Kobuk and Shungnak; construction of an airport access road in Kiana; formation of a master plan for the Kotzebue airport,

work on the Deadhorse pad and taxiway, repair on the Kotzebue runway, seal coating of the Deadhorse apron, expansion of the Barrow Airport apron, and formation of a Deadhorse airport master plan;

Construction of mobile home pads in Coldfoot, and funding for crash rescue facilities in Barrow and crash fire rescue facilities in Deadhorse.

- * District 22, Nome — a total of \$26,758,000 including construction of the Bering Straits Stebbins St. Michaels school, site work on the Teller school, remodeling and an addition at the Buckland school, an addition for the Savoonga High School, safety improvements in the Brevig Mission elementary school and the Unalakleet elementary school, and water and/or sewer upgrading in the Koyuk Golovin Teller and Brevig Mission schools;

Roadwork on the Pilgrim Hot Springs road, on miles 32 to 42 and 16 to 22 of the Nome Council highways, and a drainage study of Nome streets;