

Emergency boat for Kotzebue approved

Projects totaling \$6.3 million, including the first emergency rescue boat for a volunteer group in Alaska, have been approved by the Alaska State Legislature.

If signed into law by Gov. Jay Hammond, all the projects will come on line by the first of summer, said Senator Frank Ferguson, D-Kotzebue.

Senator Ferguson said today the Kotzebue Sound Search Rescue volunteer group, which serves the entire NANA region, would receive \$60,000 to purchase a 25-foot Boston Whaler for rescue operations.

Additionally, \$1.57 million is earmarked for White Mountain, \$1.39 million for Deering and \$3.23 million for Buckland under legislation approved by both

Houses.

"This money will allow for construction of first-class runways," Senator Ferguson said.

"These communities have long been without adequate runways."

A \$25,000 flight simulator to be used by the Northwest Arctic School District to train small aircraft pilots also was approved. Another \$25,000 will go for

construction of a saw mill in Ambler.

Additionally, \$25,000 would go to the Department of Transportation for repair of the Kuchoruk Creek Bridge near Noatak.

"This bridge is a vital link in the local transportation system because it provides a shorter route to the village of Kivalina," Senator Ferguson said.