

**WASHINGTON** – Congressman Spencer Bachus (R-Vestavia Hills) today announced funding for two fire stations in the Sixth District, the Tarrant Fire Department and the Union Grove Volunteer Fire Department.

Both stations are receiving funding to improve the safety of their firefighters.

The Tarrant Department has been awarded a \$60,232 fire grant to purchase new self-contained breathing apparatuses for the first line of firefighters that will improve the fighters' access to clean air while fighting fire. Every firefighter in the department will also have a personal facemask.

“I am pleased to announce funding that will be used to provide equipment necessary to increase the safety and morale of firefighters

and the well-being of residents and business owners in Tarrant and Union Grove ,” said Congressman Bachus. “There is great competition for these fire grants and both departments are to be commended for submitting such strong proposals.”

“This grant couldn’t come at a better time for our department,” said Fire Chief William Hewitt. “We’ve had some hard times recently and this new equipment will be a big morale booster for the firefighters. Our sincere appreciation goes to Congressman Bachus for his help.”

The Union Grove Volunteer Fire Department has been awarded \$85,493, also to enhance firefighter safety. Fire Chief Charles Culp says the funding will be used to buy a generator for the station, a new radio system, and a thermal imaging camera to help locate people in a fire, among other new safety equipment.

“We want to thank everybody for their help on this,” said Chief Culp. “All the new safety equipment will help our fighters and bring us up to standard.”

The primary goal of the Assistance for Firefighters Grant program is to meet the firefighting and emergency response needs of fire departments and nonaffiliated emergency medical services organizations. Only the applications most closely conforming to program priorities are reviewed and scored by peer review panels.

The program is administered by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

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