

**WASHINGTON** – Congressman Spencer Bachus (R-Vestavia Hills) today announced that the Calera Fire Department has been awarded a \$91,200 fire grant for a project to protect the health of its firefighters. The funding from the Assistance to Firefighters Grant program will be used to install a vehicle exhaust system in the fire station.

“By guarding the health and safety of its dedicated firefighters, the department will be better able to serve the Calera community,” said Congressman Bachus. “There is great competition for these fire grants and the department is to be commended for submitting such a strong proposal.”

The project will allow the department to direct exhaust from fire vehicles outside the station, rather than inside the firehouse.

“This grant will allow us to better protect our most valuable resource—our employees,” said Fire Chief Patrick Draper. “The exhaust system prevents pollutants and toxic chemicals from being released into the firehouse where our firefighters sleep and eat. We really appreciate the support of Congressman Bachus and his office for all their support over the years. Without their support, none of this would be possible.”

The Calera Fire Department had previously received a \$174,600 grant for

the purchase of a new fire truck.

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. Local departments are awarded grants based on recommendations from nine major

national fire service 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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