

WASHINGTON- Congressman Spencer Bachus is very pleased to announce that four local fire departments have been awarded badly needed funding through the Homeland Security grant program.

The departments and specific amounts received are as follows:

- West Shelby Fire and Rescue (Shelby County):
\$16,3

44

Operations and Firefighter Safety

- Moody Fire & Rescue (St. Clair County):
\$87,138

Operations and Firefighter Safety

- Chelsea Fire & Rescue (Shelby County):
\$66,960

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- Birminghamport Fire District (Jefferson County):
\$47,610

Operations and Firefighter Safety

All four local fire departments were awarded these grants from the Homeland Security Department based

on recommendations from nine major national fire service organizations. Many fire and rescue departments applied for the grants, but only the applications most closely conforming to program priorities were reviewed and scored by peer review panels, which began in mid April and were completed in early May. National awards are announced on a weekly basis beginning in June 2004, with the competitive funds obligated by the end of September 2005.

These funds are used by the nation's firefighters to increase the effectiveness of firefighting operations, firefighter health and safety programs, new fire apparatus, emergency medical service programs, and fire prevention and safety programs.

Congressman Bachus congratulates all four of these departments for their hard work in securing these grants because they will further provide their citizens with added fire and medical response capabilities.

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