

WASHINGTON (January 27) - Congressman Spencer Bachus (AL-6) today announced that three fire companies in Jefferson County have been awarded federal fire grants.

The Cahaba Valley Fire and EMR District, the Homewood Fire Department, and the Sylvan Springs Fire Department will receive funding under the Assistance to Firefighters program.

"Firefighters are on the front lines every day, protecting lives and saving property. They deserve modern equipment and the best in safety gear. This grant program helps ensure that fire companies have the necessary resources to quickly and effectively respond to emergency calls," Bachus said.

Bachus announced the following grants.

Cahaba Valley Fire and EMR District - \$56,092

Operations and Safety Grant for new handheld radio equipment

Chief Jim Witherington said, "We are very grateful to receive this grant. This will allow our department to comply with upcoming Federal Communications Commission requirements. It will greatly improve firefighter safety. I would like to thank Congressman Bachus for lending his support to this program and all the support his office has provided."

Homewood Fire Department - \$65,413

Operations and Safety Grant for purchase of new turnout gear

Chief John Bresnan said, "This grant for firefighter turnout gear will go a long way to helping us provide fire protection to our community. It will help replace firefighter coats, pants, and boots and increase personal safety during firefighting operations. I would like to thank Congressman Bachus for all the support he has given to this program."

Sylvan Springs Fire Department - \$26,192

Operations and Safety Grant for the purchase of a cardiac heart monitor defibrillator

Chief Rusty Johnson said, "I can't express how excited we are to be getting this grant. It will allow us to purchase a top-of-the-line cardiac heart monitor defibrillator that will save lives in the community. We are in a rural area and it can take a while to get to the hospital. We thank Congressman Bachus for his support of our department and this program."

Funds awarded under the Assistance to Firefighters (AFG) program are used to meet the firefighting and emergency needs of fire departments and nonaffiliated medical services organizations. Only the applications most closely conforming to program priorities are considered and scored by peer review panels.

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

