

WASHINGTON (April 14) – Congressman Spencer Bachus (AL-6) today announced that the Rocky Ridge Fire Department and the Vestavia Hills Fire Department in Jefferson County have been awarded federal fire grants.

“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.

Rocky Ridge Fire Department – \$17, 519

Operations and Safety Grant for purchase of nine sets of new turnout gear

Chief Michael Bartlett said, “This grant will allow the department to buy nine sets of new turnout gear that will help keep our firefighters safe. We would like to thank Congressman Bachus for his support and all his hard work to keep this grant program funded.”

Vestavia Hills Fire Department - \$169, 763

Operations and Safety Grant for purchase of five sets of hydraulic rescue tools and a large diameter hose

Chief Jim St. John said, “The Vestavia Hills Fire Department is honored to be awarded this grant, which will be used to purchase hydraulic rescue tools and large-diameter hose. Hydraulic rescue tools are most frequently used to free victims of motor vehicle collisions. The tools being replaced have been in service with the department for two decades and are unable

to cut some high-strength materials found in newer cars. With the new tools available on each fire engine, rescuers will be able to free and treat the injured much more quickly. Large diameter hose permits firefighters to deliver the volume of water needed to combat large fires, increasing safety and property conservation. The department is grateful to FEMA for administering the AFG Program and to Congressman Spencer Bachus for his continuing support.”

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.