

WASHINGTON (January 20) – Congressman Spencer Bachus (AL-6) announced fire grants for four fire departments in the Sixth District.

“Firefighters are on the front lines every day, protecting lives and saving property. They deserve modern equipment and the best in safety gear. It is important that our fire companies have the necessary resources to quickly and effectively respond to emergency calls,” Bachus said.

Bachus announced the following grants.

**Calera Fire Department – \$115,948**

Operations and Safety Grant for upgrades to communications system to improve interoperability

Chief Sean Kendrick said, “This grant will allow us to upgrade the radio equipment in our station and will increase coverage in areas of previously poor coverage. This will greatly increase our communications abilities as a department and will greatly enhance our response capabilities. We will also like to thank Congressman Bachus for his support of this department and the fire grant program.”

**Lawley Volunteer Fire Department – \$77, 805**

Vehicle Acquisition Grant for the purchase of a new water tanker

Assistant Chief Walter Holland said, “This grant will be used to acquire a new 3,000 gallon water tanker to replace a 1976 tanker that is no longer safe to use. These types of tankers have to be used to supply water for firefighting in rural areas that have no water hydrants. This

new tanker will be of great benefit to our community and the people that we serve and allow us to do our job better. We want to thank Congressman Spencer Bachus for his support of our department and all the people of Bibb County.”

**Pleasant Grove Volunteer Fire Department – \$141,360**

Operations and Safety Grant for upgrades to communications system

Chief Robert Knight said, “This grant could not have come at a better time. We are in desperate need to replace our outdated communications center. This much needed upgrade would not have been possible without this grant. We would like to thank Congressman Bachus for his support of the AFG grant program and for his support of our grant.”

**Vincent Volunteer Fire Department – \$238,925**

Vehicle Acquisition Grant for the purchase of a new pumper truck

Chief Michael Smiley said, “This will help increase participation for our volunteer fire department. Our existing vehicles are 20-30 years old and require constant maintenance. This is something we have been working on for a long time and we would like to thank Congressman Bachus for all his assistance.”

Mayor Ray McAllister said, “We are very thankful for this grant because it will allow us to replace one of the older trucks at our fire department. As Vincent continues to grow and new industry comes to our town, our fire department needs to have the necessary equipment to respond to emergencies. This new truck will allow us to do just that. We will be able to better respond and have the same capabilities that larger cities and towns have. We are grateful for the grant and appreciate all the support from Congressman Bachus.”

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.