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## **Effingham County Fire Rescue Awarded \$896,771 Homeland Security Grant**

*Grant will help build a regional communications collaborative; purchase advanced equipment for nine local fire departments in Effingham and Chatham County*

Washington, DC – 12<sup>th</sup> District Congressman John Barrow (D-GA) announced today that Effingham County Fire Rescue has been awarded an \$896,771 grant from the United States Department of Homeland Security's Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program (AFGP). Nine area fire departments will use the grant to purchase new communications equipment such as mobile and portable radios, chargers, pagers, base stations, 800 MHz repeaters, and a computer-aided dispatch system – expanding regional collaboration information sharing among the region's firefighters.

“The Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program helps provide our firefighters with the equipment and the tools they need to do their jobs,” Barrow said. “When an emergency happens, the ability to communicate is critical. And this grant will help make sure that our firefighters have the equipment they need to stay in touch, stay on the same page, and save lives.”

The grant will help fund a regional communication collaborative that is currently being developed by Effingham County Fire/Rescue. Other local fire departments that are part of the collaborative and who will directly benefit from the grant include: Guyton Fire Department, Rincon Fire Department, Springfield Fire Department, Bloomingdale Fire Department, Garden City Fire Department, Thunderbolt Fire Department, Pembroke Fire Department, and Newington Fire Department.

“This grant is a boon for the entire region,” Effingham County Fire/Rescue Chief Val Ashcraft said. “The grant will aid nine departments in Effingham and Chatham County, but our long term goal is to build a regional communications system that ties everything together among fire departments in Savannah, Chatham, Effingham, Liberty, and Bryan County. This grant will go a long way to continue building that common communications network.”

For additional information including a complete list of applicants, financial information, and fire department data for each state, please visit: <http://www.firegrantsupport.com/afg>.

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