

Washington, DC - 12th District Congressman John Barrow (D-GA) today announced that local law enforcement and emergency response agencies across the Savannah area have been awarded a \$3,000,000 federal grant from the U.S. Department of Justice's Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS). The money will be used to help emergency service providers coordinate an integrated communications network that allows different agencies and jurisdictions to communicate via radio network when needed.

“During an emergency or a natural disaster, it's vital that first responders, doctors, fire fighters, and local law enforcement agencies are able to share information and easily communicate with one another,” Barrow said. “Time saves lives in these situations, and in an emergency, a coordinated communications effort will help make sure everyone's on the same page when organizing response efforts.”

The grants were awarded under COPS Interoperable Communications Technology Grant program, which increases the number of interoperable communications systems used nationally by law enforcement, fire service, and emergency medical service agencies in the same metropolitan area. Each city is required to provide a 25 percent match of the federal funds, which were capped at \$6 million.

To coordinate regional communications efforts, the COPS grant, along with the local matching funds, will be equitably distributed among Chatham County, Bryan County, and Effingham County.

For additional information about COPS Interoperable Communications Technology Grant program, visit <http://www.cops.usdoj.gov/default.asp?Item=1268> .

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