

Chris Murphy and Meriden Officials Announce Federal Grant for City's Fire Department

Congressman Chris Murphy (CT-5), Meriden's Fire Chief James Trainor, Deputy Fire Chief Dave Bowen, and other city officials held a press conference today to announce that the city has received a grant for more than \$350,000 for the Department of Fire and Emergency Services.

Contact: Kristen Bossi
(202) 225-4476

MERIDEN - Congressman Chris Murphy (CT-5), Meriden's Fire Chief James Trainor, Deputy Fire Chief Dave Bowen, and other city officials held a press conference today to announce that the city has received a grant for more than \$350,000 for the Department of Fire and Emergency Services. Meriden will receive this funding via the 2007 Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) Program, and the city plans to use the funds to upgrade their emergency radio communications equipment, ensuring communications throughout the entirety of their fire department service area.

This is the largest AFG grant the department has received in recent years, according to Fire Chief Trainor. In May, Murphy sent a letter to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, which administers the AFG Program, in support of Meriden's request for this funding.

"I'm thrilled to stand here today with Fire Chief James Trainor, Deputy Chief Bowen and other city officials to announce this grant. These guys are already doing a tremendous job, but it is always important to stay on top of the latest technology available and this grant is going to greatly improve the City of Meriden Fire Department's ability to better serve their community," said Murphy.

The Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) Program, overseen by the United States Department of Homeland Security, is awarded each year to fire departments nationwide in order to provide equipment, training, or any other resources vital to a fire department's mission.

The City of Meriden is planning on using the grant for the purchase of base radios, receiving and transmitting equipment, and other related communication equipment which will increase the department's response time and allow for easier coordination with other area departments. The department is charged with protecting more than 59,000 people living in an area of 25 square miles. The Department consists of 98 firefighters of which 21 are on duty at all times, operating 5 engines, 1 Truck company, led by an Assistant Chief on each shift.

"We are very grateful and excited about getting this grant, which we will use for some very important infrastructure upgrades that will ensure the safety of our firefighters and our community," said Trainor.

#