

WASHINGTON – Congressman John W. Olver (1st District) announced today that the U.S. Department of Homeland Security has awarded \$194,220 in grants to three fire departments in Franklin County.

"This new equipment will play a vital role in maintaining the safety of both the firefighters and the residents of the communities they serve," said Olver.

These grants were awarded to Whately, Erving and Ashfield through the 2003 Assistance to Firefighters Grant program.

This funding will allow the Whately department to purchase a new four-wheel drive brush truck to replace its current vehicle.

These fire departments were part of 559 departments across the country to receive funding under the program.

The grants are used to increase the effectiveness of firefighting operations, fund firefighter health and safety programs, and purchase new equipment.

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For additional information, contact Whately Fire Chief Randy Sibley at 413-665-7734, Erving Fire Chief Tom Sibley at 413-665-7734, or Ashfield Fire Chief Tom Sibley at 413-665-7734.

For more information on the Assistance to Firefighters Grant program, please visit www.usfa.fema.gov.