

WASHINGTON – Congressman John W. Olver (1st District) announced today that the U.S. Department of Homeland Security has awarded grants to two fire departments in central Massachusetts.

The Westminster Fire Department received \$44,822 to update its radio communication system and purchase training materials.

"Being properly trained and equipped is crucial for the firefighters who risk their lives for our safety," said Olver.

These grants were awarded through the 2003 Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program, a program authorized by Congress.

This funding will allow Westminster to implement the next phase in its plan to update its radio communication system.

The Oakham Fire Department will use its grant to purchase training materials, including a laptop computer and training equipment.

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

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For more information, contact Chief Brenton MacAloney at the Westminster Fire Department at 978-338-2200.

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