

WASHINGTON - Congressman John W. Olver (1st District) announced that the U.S. Department of Justice awarded a grant to the Gill Fire Department.

"This grant is a welcome contribution to maintaining the safety of firefighters, as well as the safety of the community," Olver said.

The grant was awarded through the 2003 Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program, a program that provides grants to fire departments across the country.

Gill Fire Chief Gene Beaubien said the new exhaust extraction system is needed because of the high volume of vehicle emissions in the area.

The new exhaust extraction system will capture 100 percent of vehicle emissions, removing them from the breathing zone of firefighters.

The Gill Fire Department is one of 81 departments across the country to receive funding through the program.

The program awards one-year grants directly to local fire departments, enhancing their ability to protect firefighters and the community.

###

For more information, contact Gene Beaubien at gene@usa.fema.gov or the Gill Fire Department at 413-863-8955.