

WASHINGTON , Congressman John W. Olver (D-1st District) announced that the U.S. Department of Homeland Security has awarded a grant of \$194,819 to the Leominster Fire Department.

The funding will assist the Leominster Fire Department in upgrading its radio communications system to a new digital system.

"Our firefighters deserve the best equipment to do their jobs safely and effectively," Olver said. "First responders are the backbone of our communities, and it is our responsibility to ensure they have the resources they need to do their jobs effectively."

The Leominster Fire Department is in need of upgrading its radio communications system because it is currently using an analog system that is outdated and unreliable.

Leominster Fire Chief Alfred E. LeBlanc said, "The Leominster Fire Department must also handle the demands of a growing community, and this grant will help us meet those challenges."

The 2005 Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program is administered by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

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