



Congressman Tim Bishop

FIRST DISTRICT -- NEW YORK

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**CONTACT: JON SCHNEIDER
PHONE: (202) 225-3826**

BISHOP ANNOUNCES \$35K GRANT FOR SAG HARBOR FIRE DEPARTMENT

Sag Harbor, NY: At an event at the Sag Harbor Fire Department headquarters on Monday, Congressman Tim Bishop announced a \$35,055 federal grant. The funding will be used to help purchase communications equipment to assist first responders in doing their jobs. Bishop was joined at the event was other local leaders including Assemblyman Fred Thiele and Sag Harbor Mayor Edward Deyermund.

“Firefighters have always put their lives on the line to protect our communities,” Bishop said. “I am fighting in Congress to help our first responders to do their jobs better and safer. This funding will help Sag Harbor's volunteers firefighters save lives.”

“We appreciate Congressman Bishop’s assistance in securing this grant and all his support,” Sag Harbor FD Chief Chris Kohnken said.

The funds will be used to purchase new pagers, which will help improve response time and ensure that information is quickly shared.

The grant was given as part of the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program. The Department of Homeland Security’s Office for Domestic Preparedness (ODP) administers the program, in cooperation with the U.S. Fire Administration. This year, Bishop fought to ensure the program is funded at \$750 million, the Administration had attempted to cut the program by \$250 million. The funding will be available as of the next Fiscal Year, which begins on October 1.

Bishop has been a strong supporter of the grant program and assisting local first responders. In addition to helping to restore funding to the program, he has personally held several grant workshops throughout the district in an effort to help local first responders learn more about how they can benefit from the program.

“Our first responders are on the frontline of our Homeland Security efforts, and we need to give them the resources to protect our communities,” Bishop said. “I will continue to fight so that we properly support our first responders.”

The grants are awarded on a competitive basis to the applicants that most closely address the program's priorities and demonstrate financial need. Funding is available for activities such as hiring additional firefighting personnel; specialized emergency response training for situations like terrorist attacks; the creation of wellness and fitness programs for firefighters; equipment and facility upgrades; and fire prevention programs.

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