



Congressman Tim Bishop

FIRST DISTRICT -- NEW YORK

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BISHOP ANNOUNCES \$77K GRANT TO PORT JEFF FIRST RESPONDERS

Vols Receive Homeland Security Grant to Improve Safety

PORT JEFFERSON, NY: Congressman Tim Bishop today announced a \$77,616 federal grant for the Port Jefferson Volunteer Ambulance Company (PJVAC). The volunteers will receive the funding in a one-year grant to install diesel fume eliminators in the ambulance garage and to purchase Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) required Personnel Protective Equipment.

“This new federal grant will allow Port Jefferson’s first responders to do their jobs more safely, while not adding to our local tax burden,” Bishop said. “I congratulate the Port Jeff volunteers on their successful grant award. The department and its emergency responders have been exceptionally proactive in applying for grants and attending my Department of Homeland Security grant workshops.” The PJVAC attended a grant workshop that Bishop had organized, in February 2005.

“By funding first responders in Port Jefferson, we are increasing the security of our community and assuring the safety of its residents,” Bishop added. “The greater Port Jefferson community should be proud to be protected by dedicated volunteers who will go the extra mile.”

“I thank Congressman Bishop for his assistance in obtaining this grant from the Department of Homeland Security,” stated Jack Cuthbertson, Chief of the Port Jefferson Ambulance Company. “I believe we are the first volunteer ambulance company on Long Island to receive this award.”

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. In the 108th Congress, Bishop fought to ensure the program was funded at \$750 million, the Administration had attempted to cut the program by \$250 million.

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 public education and awareness activities, fire codes enforcement activities, fire inspector certifications, purchase and installation of smoke alarms and fire suppression systems, and arson prevention and detection activities.

In the past, only fire departments were eligible for such grants. However, a new grant procedure was announced allowing unaffiliated agencies, such as volunteer ambulance companies, to apply for grants. Each year, Bishop holds a series of funding workshops for local first responders to make them aware of new rules that could help them. The Port Jefferson Volunteer Ambulance Company was founded in 1959 and provides emergency medical services to Port Jefferson, Belle Terre and Mount Sinai.

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