



City of Bristol

NEWS RELEASE

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FEMA awards \$130,000 grant to Bristol FD for Fire Officer and Fire Instructor Training Program

Today, Mayor Ellen Zoppo-Sassu announced in conjunction with Rep. John B. Larson (CT-01) that Bristol is among four Connecticut communities to receive grant funding from FEMA.

The Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) is a program to help fire departments and emergency medical service organizations obtain critically needed equipment, protective gear, emergency vehicles, training and other resources necessary for protecting the public and first responders from fire and other emergencies. In addition to Bristol, Larson also announced that Middletown, Manchester, and Southington have also received awards, for a total of over \$595,000 in grant funding. Bristol will be receiving \$134,702.72 for Fire Officer and Fire Instructor training programs.

"These grants represent the hard work and sacrifice of our firefighters and first responders in Middletown, Manchester, Bristol, Southington," said Larson. "I congratulate the men and women of these departments for the outstanding job they do protecting the towns they serve. This funding will ensure that these firefighters have the tools they need to respond to emergencies. The residents of these communities are safer because of these awards."

"We are very excited to hear of the recent Assistance to Firefighters Grants (AFG) award from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)" said Fire Chief Jay Kolakoski. "We will use this award to fund the first phase of a two-part initiative to train our company officers to nationally recognized standards, something that we would not be able to achieve within our current budget." The Chief also anticipates applying to receive additional funding later this year for the second phase of the training.

"The City is very grateful to Congressman John Larson and the entire state delegation for their continued support of first responders and the fire grants programs," said Mayor Ellen Zoppo-Sassu, who chairs the Fire Commission. "Without their efforts, continued funding for these and other valuable programs would be in jeopardy. Like our Firefighters, they are always there when we need them most."

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