

***Congressman
J. Randy Forbes***
Fourth District of Virginia



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Forbes Announces Grant for Courtland Volunteer Fire Department

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Congressman Randy Forbes (VA-04) announced today a grant from the United States Fire Administration (USFA) for the Courtland Volunteer Fire Department in the amount of **\$53,550**.

"I am so pleased that the Courtland Volunteer Fire Department received this well-deserved and much-needed funding to assist them in protecting and serving the residents of Courtland," Forbes said. "This grant will enable approximately 25 dedicated volunteer firefighters, to replace the self contained breathing apparatus, most of which is fifteen years or older."

Forbes' office has been directly involved in helping Courtland to develop their application for new breathing apparatus. Specifically, Forbes wrote a letter of support to the U.S. Fire Administration stating, "[Courtland Volunteer Fire Department is in] need of all the assistance we can provide in this time of heightened expectations on our public safety officials."

The *Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program*, administered by the U.S. Fire Administration (USFA), awards one-year grants directly to local fire departments, enhancing their abilities to respond to fire and fire-related hazards in their communities. These funds are used by the nation's firefighters to increase the effectiveness of firefighting operations, fire fighter health and safety programs, new fire apparatus, Emergency Medical Service programs, and Fire Prevention and Safety Programs.

Greg Vick, Assistant Fire Chief for the Courtland Volunteer Fire Department, stated "We're really excited to receive this funding. We've known we were going to have to replace the breathing apparatus equipment soon, but prices for new equipment keeps going up, and there is not enough money to buy what we need. Without Congressman Forbes' assistance, we wouldn't have been able to receive this funding."

Chief Vick added that the department's current breathing equipment is no longer in production. In addition, Courtland is the only operations level hazardous materials response unit for the entire County of Southampton, City of Franklin, and parts of Isle of Wight County. This funding will allow them to replace their outdated equipment, with upgraded equipment that is compatible with all of the other localities they work with.

"The men and women who serve as firefighters risk their lives every day to provide safe and secure communities across the country," Forbes said. "I'm proud and honored to give them all of my support."