

## June 30, 2006 Law enforcement to get funding

For Immediate Release

June 30, 2006

Law enforcement to get funding

Washington D.C. - Congressman John Murtha announced today that the House of Representatives Thursday passed legislation that includes funding he obtained for two programs that will benefit law-enforcement agencies in the 12th Congressional District.

Under the Southwestern Pennsylvania Law Enforcement Technologies program, police departments in the district will be eligible for grants to upgrade computer and other equipment.

"Small police departments are hard-pressed to find the funding necessary to buy modern equipment that is essential to the effective management of emergencies, disasters or even routine calls," Murtha said. "I know how hard these first responders work to protect their communities, and I'm pleased to be able to support their efforts."

A second program will provide grants to first responders in Fayette, Greene and Somerset counties, which face special technical challenges because of their rural, expansive landscape. The grants will provide funding for mobile data infrastructure and in-vehicle equipment, including database records and look-up capabilities from state and national criminal databases, as well as allow dispatchers to deliver calls directly to law-enforcement officers in the field using wireless technology.

"These improvements will not only provide more-accurate emergency response information, but they'll also speed up response time," Murtha said. "That's particularly important because few rural counties can afford the burdensome costs of fully staffed first-responder teams."

L. Robert Kimball of Ebensburg will coordinate the program with the three counties and first responders.

The funding is part of the fiscal year 2007 Science, State, Justice, Commerce appropriations bill.