

# Nancy Johnson



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Fifth District, Connecticut

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## **Johnson Helps Secure Grant for Washington Firefighters**

### ***Grant Will Protect Firefighters and Help Taxpayers***

WASHINGTON, CT – Congresswoman Nancy Johnson today announced the Washington Volunteer Fire Department has won a \$117,967 federal grant to purchase important new firefighting equipment.

Johnson helped secure the grant on behalf of the town. In April, Johnson wrote to U.S. Fire Administrator David Paulison in “strong support” of the department’s grant application. Paulison now runs the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

**“This grant is a big help to Washington and its taxpayers,” Johnson said. “It will purchase needed safety equipment for use at the firehouse and at the fire scene, as well as ease the financial burden for the town's taxpayers. I congratulate the Washington fire department, and I greatly appreciate the courage and professionalism our firefighters show every day and thank them for their service.”**

Washington’s assistant fire chief Dick Murchison, Jr. said the grant will serve two purposes. First, it will go to purchase a new system to fill firefighter breathing tanks. Murchison said the current system is 22 years old and it “takes significant time and energy to fill the tanks.”

The grant will also go to install a system to clear both the Washington Depot and New Prespon firehouses of vehicle exhaust fumes. The system, which attaches directly to vehicle tailpipes, will keep the firehouses exhaust-free for both firefighters and citizens who use the buildings.

**“These new technologies will serve our firefighters better and keep them safer,” Murchison said. “We’re on the front lines, and Congresswoman Johnson sees what we do everyday and her support is very beneficial to the fire service.”**

This competitive grant was awarded through the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program. In 2005, Congress authorized \$650 million in direct assistance to firefighters through these grants to improve firefighter safety, effectiveness, and equipment. The program is administered through the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.