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## ***Black Lick Volunteer Fire Company Receives Critical Fire Grant***

Washington, D.C. – **Congressman Bill Shuster** is pleased to announce that the Black Lick Volunteer Fire Company of Indiana County has been awarded a grant in the amount of \$50,673 through the Department of Homeland Security’s Assistance to Fire Fighters Grant Program.

The fire company will use the grant to purchase brand new large diameter hose and smaller diameter hose for fire attack lines as well as a new compressor system to refill air cylinders for self-contained breathing apparatus and other air operated equipment.

“I congratulate the firefighters of the Black Lick V.F.C. for their successful grant application,” said Congressman Shuster.

“It’s easy to forget exactly how expensive firefighting equipment can be,” Shuster added. “The compressor the fire company will buy with this grant can cost over \$30,000 alone. Our local and rural fire companies can’t afford this equipment through fundraising alone. That is why this grant program is so important.”

“The vast majority of fundraising goes towards the day to day operating costs of the fire company,” stated Tim Stipcak, Chief of the Black Lick Fire Company. “Grants, such as the Assistance to Firefighters Grants Program, allow us to replace outdated/failing equipment with up to date firefighting equipment that makes the our job of protecting life and property safer, it is still a dangerous job! Our number one goal is keeping the firefighter safe so that he/she can return home to their families after an emergency.”

The Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program (AFGP) awards one-year grants directly to fire departments and rescue personnel to support the nation's first responders and the services they deliver. The Department of Homeland Security’s Office of State and Local Government Coordination and Preparedness (SLGCP) administers the program, in cooperation with the U.S. Fire Administration.

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