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## ***Shuster Announces Critical Fire Grant to the Tunnelton Conemaugh TWP Volunteer Fire Department of Indiana County***

Washington, D.C. – **Congressman Bill Shuster** is pleased to announce that the Tunnelton Volunteer Fire Department has been awarded a grant in the amount of \$261,250 through the Department of Homeland Security’s Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program. They must provide a 5% match of \$13,750.

“I congratulate the volunteers of the Tunnelton Volunteer Fire Department for their successful grant application,” Shuster said. “This grant once again showcases just how important this program is. The Tunnelton V.F.D. would not have been able to cover the cost of the fire engine through fundraising alone.”

Chief Rick Bouch stated, “Tunnelton Conemaugh TWP VFD firefighters are excited about this grant. A new fire engine was out of our reach without a grant. We will be doing multiple fundraisers to help with the 5% match we must provide. The first major fundraiser will be a spaghetti dinner on Sunday June 27<sup>th</sup> at noon. Please come and enjoy a meal with our firefighters and help us buy our new Fire engine.”

Congressman Shuster would also like to remind local fire firefighters that the application period for interested fire companies to take part in the FY 2010 AFG Program is now open. The application period will close on Friday, May 28, 2010, at 5:00 p.m. EDT. The AFG Program guidance and application materials are currently available for review at [www.firegrantsupport.com](http://www.firegrantsupport.com).

Congressman Shuster encourages fire departments across the 9<sup>th</sup> district to take advantage of the application period to apply for funding to help finance new equipment and training.

The AFG Program provides financial assistance directly to fire departments and nonaffiliated emergency medical service (EMS) organizations to enhance their capabilities with respect to fire and fire-related hazards. The primary goal of the program is to help fire departments and nonaffiliated EMS organizations meet their firefighting and emergency response needs. The AFG Program seeks to support organizations that lack the tools and resources necessary to more effectively protect the life and safety of the public and their emergency response personnel with respect to fire and all other hazards.

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