

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4007

March 19, 2026

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro,

I am requesting funding for the Sandhill Volunteer Fire Department Training Center Project in Fiscal Year 2027. The entity to receive funding for this project is the Sandhill Volunteer Fire Department, located at 112 E Miller St, Jefferson, South Carolina 29718. The funding would be used to support an existing facility that would be used for training and to store additional fire trucks.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because it supports the purchase and activation of a centralized public safety training and disaster response facility for the Sandhill Volunteer Fire Department, addressing critical gaps in training capacity and emergency preparedness in Chesterfield County and the surrounding region. Currently, the department operates out of limited space—approximately 1,000 square feet—which constrains its ability to train firefighters and host regional training activities. Despite these limitations, Sandhill provides training at the local, county, and state levels and plays a key role in mutual aid and emergency response across the region. Expanding into a dedicated 17,000-square-foot facility will significantly enhance training capabilities for fire and law enforcement personnel, improving coordination and readiness for complex emergencies. The project is also a valuable use of taxpayer funds because it addresses a major infrastructure gap in disaster preparedness. The region currently relies on school facilities for emergency sheltering, many of which lack backup power and are not designed for sustained emergency operations. This facility will provide a purpose-built location capable of supporting large-scale sheltering, staging emergency personnel and equipment, and serving as a backup emergency operations center during disasters. Community support letters highlight the project's regional impact, including its role in strengthening interagency coordination, improving response times, and providing a safe, modern shelter for residents during hurricanes, severe storms, and other emergencies. By investing in this facility, federal funding will enhance public safety, improve disaster resilience, and ensure that rural communities have the infrastructure needed to protect lives and property during emergencies.

The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by Section 306 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, codified at 7 U.S.C. section 1926(a).

I certify that I have no financial interest in this project, nor does anyone in my immediate family.

Sincerely,



Russell Fry
Member of Congress