

RUSSELL FRY
7TH DISTRICT, SOUTH CAROLINA
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY
AND COMMERCE
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

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

345 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-9895

1500 HWY 17 N, SUITE 304
SURFBEACH, SC 29575
(843) 353-5377

401 WEST EVANS STREET, SUITE 205
FLORENCE, SC 29501
(843) 799-6880

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 City of Bennettsville Police Department Equipment and Technology Upgrades Project in Fiscal Year 2027. The entity to receive funding for this project is the City of Bennettsville Police Department, located at 254 US 15-401 Bypass E, Bennettsville, South Carolina 29512. The funding would be used to improve first responders' communication capabilities through the acquisition and deployment of dual-band portable radios.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because it directly improves public safety, strengthens emergency response capabilities, and enhances coordination among first responders. The Bennettsville Police Department's current communication equipment has not undergone a major upgrade since 2004 and no longer meets modern operational or interoperability standards. Outdated systems can result in communication failures, limited coverage, and delays during critical incidents, increasing risk to both responders and the public. This investment addresses those gaps by providing modern, interoperable communication equipment. The requested funding will be used to purchase 25 dual-band portable radios, along with essential accessories including spare batteries, remote speaker microphones, and chargers, as well as programming and deployment support. These radios will enable seamless communication across local, county, and state systems, ensuring that first responders can coordinate effectively during emergencies, severe weather events, and mutual aid responses. This investment maximizes taxpayer value by improving interoperability across agencies while reducing inefficiencies caused by outdated or incompatible systems. Modern equipment also offers greater reliability and durability, helping reduce long-term maintenance and replacement costs. Improved communication capabilities will lead to faster response times, better coordination during incidents, and enhanced safety for officers and other first responders. Ultimately, this project strengthens regional preparedness, improves public safety outcomes, and ensures that communities are better protected during emergencies.

The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by section 1701(b)(9) of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968, codified at 34 U.S.C. Section 10381(b)(9).

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

Sincerely,



Russell Fry
Member of Congress