

Recovery Grant the third largest in the nation and one of only two awarded in MA

Washington, D.C. – Today Congressman John Olver announced that the Ware Fire Department will receive \$5 million in federal Recovery Act funds for the construction of a new firehouse. The purpose of the FY 2009 American Reinvestment and Recovery Act Assistance to Firefighters State Construction Grant Program is to provide communities that have gaps in adequate firefighting coverage with financial assistance for the construction, renovation or modification of fire stations and to stimulate the local economy in the process.

Over 6,000 applications totaling over \$11 billion in requests were received and just over 100 were selected nationwide. The Ware Fire Department's application was one of the just over 100 grants awarded and was the third largest overall.

"This award, the third largest award in the nation and one of only two awarded in MA, is a testament to the hard work of Chief Coulombe and his Department," said Congressman John Olver (D-MA). "The current station has served the town well but is in need of repair and simply does not meet the needs of a 21st Century fire department. This money will allow the town to construct a state-of-the-art facility that will enhance the ability of firefighters to respond to emergencies for years to come."

"This project is great for our community and Ware. It is estimated that 100 construction jobs will be created over the life of the project. I think it's great that people will get to go back to work as we construct the new firehouse," said Chief Coulombe.

"I applaud the efforts of the Town of Ware and Chief Coulombe for working diligently to ensure that the public safety needs of the town are met," stated Senator Stephen M. Brewer (D-Barre). "This award will help the town meet its fire protection goals of tomorrow while creating good paying construction jobs today."

The new station will be located on 4.5 town-owned acres off of West Street, State Route 32. The project is expected to begin Fall 2010.

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