

MIKE BOST  
12TH DISTRICT, ILLINOIS

VETERANS' AFFAIRS COMMITTEE  
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May 2, 2025

The Honorable Tom Cole  
Chairman  
House Committee on Appropriations  
H-307, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Appropriations  
1036 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting \$1,700,000 for the Platform Ladder Truck for Effingham, IL project in Effingham, IL in fiscal year 2026.

The entity to receive funding for this project is the City of Effingham, located at 505 W. Fayette Ave, Effingham, IL 62401.

The proposed project aims to replace Effingham Fire Department's almost 25-year-old platform ladder truck with a new state-of-the-art model. This project is crucial as the current truck has surpassed its operational lifespan, leading to increased maintenance costs and reduced reliability. The new truck will feature advanced safety and firefighting technology, including enhanced height capabilities, improved maneuverability, and modern firefighting equipment.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer dollars and is anticipated to have the following benefits. The acquisition of a new platform ladder truck is vital not only for general community safety but also particularly crucial for the residents of Slate Creek Apartments. This apartment complex, which houses 113 residential units, is an independent living community composed primarily of elderly and disabled individuals who are at heightened risk during emergencies. Given its lightweight wood frame construction and lack of sprinkler systems, the building is particularly vulnerable in the event of a fire. Moreover, each floor houses individuals with disabilities, making evacuation challenging. In such scenarios, the only viable means of rescue is an aerial platform, underscoring the critical need for the new ladder truck.

The district also includes several four-story hotels and the current HSHS St. Anthony Memorial Hospital, all of which would benefit significantly from the enhanced reach and capabilities of a new ladder truck. Moreover, the new ladder truck will not only serve Effingham but also be available to assist neighboring districts through mutual aid agreements. This capability to support other departments significantly extends the impact and utility of the federal investment, ensuring that the improved response capabilities can benefit a broader regional community in times of emergency. Investing in this critical infrastructure is a prudent use of federal taxpayer dollars as

it ensures public safety and preparedness for emergencies, directly impacting our community's most vulnerable populations and safeguarding essential community structures.

This project has a Federal nexus because it is for the purposes authorized in Section 306 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, 7 U.S. Code section 1926(a).

I certify that neither I nor my immediate family have any financial interest in this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mike Bost", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mike Bost  
Member of Congress