

Batesburg-Leesville Fire Department Awarded Grant

The Batesburg-Leesville Fire Department was notified Friday, August 28th, that they have been selected as a recipient of a grant through the Assistance to Firefighter's Grant Program which is administered through the Department of Homeland Security. The Town of Batesburg-Leesville is slated to receive \$45,715 as part of the grant which will upgrade the 800 mhz radio communications for the department. The upgrades were mandated by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) which is requiring that all 800 mhz radios meet new standards by January 2017.

The 800 mhz radios are used for communications with the Lexington County Communications Center and are also valuable tools for communication throughout the state as part of the Palmetto 800 system and with the department being part of the Statewide Mutual Aid system.

The grant was written by Batesburg-Leesville Fire Chief Jay Hendrix and is the first federal grant received by the department after multiple attempts over the past decade. This grant increases the total amount of grants and corporate donations over the past two years now total s over \$61,000 with funds having gone to fire prevention and life safety previously and now towards equipment replacement.