

Washington, DC -- Congressman Vern Buchanan announced today that Hardee County has been awarded an \$11,192 anti-crime grant from the U.S. Department of Justice. The Hardee County Sheriff's Office will use the Edward Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program grant to purchase technology and equipment.

"The JAG program allows state and local governments to use federal funds for local solutions to local problems," said Buchanan. "This funding will help the Hardee County Sheriff's Office replace outdated and irreparable technology, which will make them more productive and efficient. It will also allow them to supplement their weapons to enhance the safety of the deputies as well as the citizens of Hardee County."

The Hardee County Sheriff's Department will use the money to purchase four mobile data terminal systems, which will allow deputies in the field to do records checks, driver license inquiries, check for warrants, and connect with the Florida Crime Information Center. They will also purchase seven tasers for the department.

Col. Arnold Lanier from the Hardee County Sheriff's office said, "We're very pleased with the JAG grant. It allows us to purchase items that normally we would not be able to do."

The total amount of federal funding available through the JAG program this year is \$292 million. Funds awarded through the formula grant program may be used for training, personnel, and equipment and information systems for law enforcement programs. Funding may also be used for prosecution and court programs, drug treatment programs, corrections programs and technology improvement programs.