

Washington, DC -- Congressman Vern Buchanan announced today that DeSoto County has been awarded a \$14,727 anti-crime grant from the U.S. Department of Justice. The DeSoto County Sheriff's Office will use the Edward Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program grant to purchase new equipment for its patrolmen.

"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 DeSoto County Sheriff's office purchase new firearms to better protect its deputies and the general public."

According to Chief Deputy, Major L. Roland Wilson, the funding will allow them to equip their road patrol units with tactical rifles.

"This grant will help us to greatly enhance our road patrol division by increasing the number of tactical rifles available to our deputies. Sheriff Keen and our agency are thankful for the opportunity to be awarded this grant in the amount of \$14,727."

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.