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## **Governor Musgrove Says Mississippi First Responders to Receive Funds**

(Jackson, MS) – Mississippi’s first responders will receive needed federal funds following Governor Ronnie Musgrove’s call for the federal government to support local public safety and emergency response preparations. During a press conference in Jackson on Monday, March 3, Musgrove urged President George Bush to release funds earmarked for the nation’s first responders, saying “support is needed from the federal level, and that support is needed now.”

The State of Mississippi will request the full \$7.5 million dollars in State Homeland Security Grant funds eligible for the current fiscal year.

“I appreciate this funding being made available to our state’s first responders,” Musgrove said. “Our responsibility to the safety and security of our people has never wavered, and this funding will provide much-needed additional resources to help us in our continued work.”

The Mississippi Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) is eligible to receive \$7.5 million dollars through the Office of Domestic Preparedness in the Department of Homeland Security. The funds will be earmarked to state and local jurisdictions in the form of risk and needs assessments, equipment grants, training, exercise support and technical assistance priorities.

“The Mississippi Emergency Management Agency will continue to seek out and request federal funds to support the First Responders across our State,” said MEMA Executive Director Robert Latham. “MEMA will work directly with local governments and emergency management directors to secure and disperse homeland security dollars. Our priority is and will continue to be to support training and preparedness efforts that saves lives and property and ensure the security of the citizens of Mississippi.”

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