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**Heller Announces Over $3 Million in Grants Awarded to Nevada Fire Agencies**

**WASHINGTON** – U.S. Senator Dean Heller (R-NV) announced that four Nevada Fire Agencies – Las Vegas Fire & Rescue, Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe Fire Rescue, Mason Valley Fire Protection District, and Carlin Volunteer Fire Department – have been awarded competitive grants totaling over $3 million from the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) as part of an additional round of awards from the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Program and the Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) Program.

The SAFER Program, funded by legislation that Heller supported in the U.S. Senate, provides departments and volunteers with the support they need to continue protecting cities across the nation from fires as well as improve the overall response from fire agencies. The SAFER grants, awarded to Las Vegas Fire & Rescue and Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe Fire Rescue, will be used to help the departments increase the number of frontline firefighters. Similarly, the AFG program allows first responders to better respond to emergencies by providing grants used to improve essential equipment, such as vehicles, protective gear, and response training.  [In a letter of support](https://www.heller.senate.gov/public/_cache/files/7c7b81be-9dec-4bbf-a64b-a1fe2e09cb6a/2018%20AGF%20GRANT%20LOS%20MASON%20VALLEY%20FIRE%20PROTECTION%20DISTRICT.pdf), Heller highlighted that Mason Valley Fire Protection District will use these critical funds to obtain 30 Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus’ that ensure firefighters can safely operate and save lives and property when in dangerous conditions such as a burning building or an area filled with smoke or gas.

“Firefighters throughout Nevada put their lives on the line to save both persons and property. We must protect those who protect us, and that begins with ensuring they have adequate staffing and the high-quality equipment that will keep them safe during their operations,” **said Heller.** “That is the goal of these grant programs. The resources announced will go a long way toward enabling Nevada’s fire departments to hire highly trained individuals and obtain the equipment they need to operate safely as they fight for our communities. I thank the Department of Homeland Security for recognizing the needs of our state, and I look forward to continue to push for policies that support our brave firefighters who work hard to keep our families and communities safe.”

**The full breakdown of grants can be found below:**

As awarded through the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Program:

* **Las Vegas Fire & Rescue** will receive $2,297,185
* **Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe Fire Rescue** will receive $608,016

As awarded through the Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) Program:

* **Mason Valley Fire Protection District** will receive $181,429
* **Carlin Volunteer Fire Department** will receive $6,286

In total, the Department of Homeland Security is awarding approximately $345 million as part of the SAFER Program and $310 million through the AFG Program.

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