



News Release From . . .

Congressman Rodney Alexander

5th Congressional District of Louisiana

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ALEXANDER SECURES FEDERAL FUNDING FOR THREE 5TH DISTRICT PROJECTS

CONGRESSMAN FUNDS LAW ENFORCEMENT PROJECTS WITH OVER \$800,000

Washington, D.C. -- U.S. Rep. Rodney Alexander, R-Quitman, announced today that he was able to use his seat on the House Appropriations Committee to secure \$850,000 for law enforcement projects in the 5th Congressional District.

Alexander secured the following in the Science, State, Justice, and Commerce Appropriations Committee Conference Report: \$300,000 for the Pointe Coupee firing range; \$250,000 for the New Roads Police Department laptop project; \$300,000 for the Grant Parish Multi-Parish Methamphetamine Task Force.

"Our law enforcement officials are often our first-responders," Alexander said. **"That is why these projects were my top priorities. Last year I held two town hall meetings in both Alexandria and Monroe with local sheriffs and task force agents. They told me their number one concern was finding funding to help combat the local drug problems destroying their communities. By securing this funding, we are working toward that goal."**

Grant Parish Multi-Parish Methamphetamine Task Force: \$300,000

Including the parishes of Winn, Claiborne, Grant, Natchitoches, Rapides, Vernon, and Webster. The money will be used to continue to staff the task force, payment of overtime to meth task force officers, staff the task force with new hires, and purchase new equipment that will be used specifically towards deterrence, location, and destruction of methamphetamine labs. With the growing problem of methamphetamine production, distribution, and use in particularly rural areas, this program is vital to the destruction and prevention of methamphetamine labs in the area.

Pointe Coupee Firing Range: \$300,000

An "indoor" firing range allows training to be scheduled without the disruption of inclement weather, eliminating wasted time and manpower, and allowing more efficient and better training of law enforcement officers. Better training translates into increased safety to citizens and officers and a more imposing deterrent to criminals and terrorists. The location also has the convenience of being only a 45 minute drive from Baton Rouge, one hour from Lafayette, and an hour and fifteen minutes from Alexandria. The Regional Indoor Firing Range (RIFR) facility would be available to any law enforcement official, whether local, state, or federal and would be fully maintained, insured, and staffed by qualified instructors at the sole expense of the Pointe Coupee office.

New Roads Police Department Laptop Project: \$250,000

This project will enhance the city's crime-fighting technology infrastructure. The laptop project

will support electronic roll call process, field reporting, ID checks from remote locations, and provide the officers with information that will allow them to be more effective in the fight against crime. These funds will be used to purchase crime analysis software, mobile data computers, desktop computer workstations, and server and user training and onsite services.