



# WOODFORD COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

Emergency: 911  
Office: 859-873-3170  
Fax: 859-873-7017

103 South Main Street  
Courthouse Room 12  
Versailles, KY 40383

[woodfordcountyky.gov/ema](http://woodfordcountyky.gov/ema)

March 6, 2026

Honorable Andy Barr  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2430 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 25015

Re: Community Project Funding need by the City of Versailles Fire Department

Dear Representative Barr,

The City of Versailles Fire Department plays a critical role in Woodford County's disaster and emergency service organization. They're an active participant in regional initiatives, such as the Bluegrass Emergency Response Team which operates in a 14-county area across Congressional Districts 6, 1, and 5. Disasters have taken them statewide to places like Monroe County to provide mutual-aid coverage. Despite the growing list of resource enhancements achieved in recent years, your assistance is essential to ensure firefighting capability is always met.

The department is reliant on a 1988 fire engine—an apparatus older than many of the very personnel operating them. There are multiple justifications for replacing this equipment, the most significant being adaptation to Insurance Service Organization (ISO) rating requirements with an aging fleet. Poorer ratings have a direct impact on property policy premiums. Public safety vehicles, and specifically limited-production vehicles like fire engines, are excessively expensive. Build times for custom apparatus exceed two years. Commercial chassis, a cost-saving concession Versailles has accepted as necessary, could be a year from order-to-delivery. That would place Versailles Engine 2 out of service after 39 years if a replacement was ordered today. A new fire engine is not a departmental want; it's a community need.

The Versailles Fire Department has gone through a metamorphosis in recent years under the leadership of Chief T.A. Rankin, whose vision of a small municipal agency doing big things is becoming a reality. This is attributed to the city administration's support along with the work by firefighters, both professional and volunteers. Most notably is the increasing number of technical rescue experts being cultivated through rigorous training and partnerships with other public safety organizations across Kentucky. One member has competed internationally at Rescue Great Day as one of our country's best. This information sharing is intended to provide reassurance that Community Project Funding is a good investment for Versailles, Woodford County, and Kentucky. Please give their request your fullest consideration.

Please contact me if any additional information would be helpful in the review process.

In Service,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "DREW CHANDLER".

Drew Chandler, AEM®, CKEM, NREMT  
Director

# Commonwealth of Kentucky

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
56<sup>th</sup> Legislative District  
Daniel.Fister@kylegislature.gov



702 Capital Avenue, Suite 424  
Frankfort, Kentucky 40601  
(502) 564-8100

### REPRESENTATIVE DANIEL A. FISTER

March 6, 2026

The Honorable Andy Barr  
United States House of Representatives  
2430 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Barr:

I am writing in strong support of Fiscal Year 2027 appropriations for Community Project Funding for the City of Versailles and the Versailles Fire Department. If awarded, the funds would go toward the purchase of a new fire engine to replace an outdated one that no longer meets National Fire Protection Association or industry safety standards, posing great risk to first responders and community members alike.

The Versailles Fire Department plays a vital role in protecting the lives, property, and well-being of the citizens it proudly serves. Its mission is clear: to provide the highest level of emergency response possible and to positively impact outcomes for members of the community during times of crisis. In order to continue fulfilling this mission, the department must have access to modern, reliable, and safe equipment.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Daniel A. Fister".

Daniel A. Fister  
State Representative  
56<sup>th</sup> Legislative District

DF/tw



**WOODFORD COUNTY JUDGE/ EXECUTIVE**

**JAMES KAY**

FAX: 859-873-0196

103 South Main  
Woodford County Courthouse  
Versailles, Kentucky 40383

Phone: 859-873-4139

Honorable Andy Barr  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2430 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Community Project Funding Request by the City of Versailles Fire Department

Dear Congressman Barr,

I am writing to express my strong support for the City of Versailles' application for Community Project Funding to assist with the purchase of a new fire truck for the Versailles Fire Department in Versailles, Kentucky.

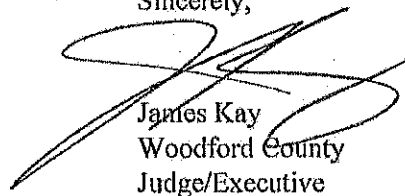
The Versailles Fire Department plays a critical role in protecting the residents, businesses, and visitors of both the City of Versailles and Woodford County. As our community continues to grow, maintaining modern and reliable emergency response equipment is essential to ensuring the safety of our citizens and the effectiveness of our first responders.

Under the leadership of Chief T. A. Rankin, the Versailles Fire Department has demonstrated a strong commitment to service not only within our local community but throughout the Commonwealth of Kentucky. The department is an active member of the Bluegrass Emergency Response Team, and its highly trained personnel have responded across the state in support of recent disasters. Their ability and willingness to assist communities in times of crisis reflect the professionalism and dedication that define this department.

This Community Project Funding request would support not only the residents of the City of Versailles and Woodford County served by the Versailles Fire Department, but it would also have a wider ranging impact as the department continues its mission to serve the Commonwealth in times of need. Providing modern and reliable firefighting apparatus ensures the department remains prepared to respond locally and to support regional and statewide emergency operations when called upon.

Thank you for your continued support of public safety in Kentucky and for your consideration of this important request.

Sincerely,



James Kay  
Woodford County  
Judge/Executive