

TONY GONZALES  
23RD DISTRICT, TEXAS

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

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SUBCOMMITTEE ON COUNTERTERRORISM,  
LAW ENFORCEMENT, AND INTELLIGENCE



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House of Representatives  
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19 March 2026

Chairman Tom Cole  
Appropriations Committee  
H-307, The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Ranking Member Rosa DeLauro  
Appropriations Committee  
H-307, The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for the Helotes Fire Department Fire Engine Initiative project in the Fiscal Year *27 Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act*. The entity to receive funding for this project is the City of Helotes Fire Department, located at 12951 Bandera Road, Helotes TX 78023. The funding would be used to replace the Helotes Fire Department's 1999 KME Class 1 fire engine, a 27-year-old apparatus that has exceeded its useful life and is no longer sufficient to meet the operational demands of Helotes and the surrounding portions of rural Bexar County. This project is a responsible use of taxpayer funds because, absent federal support, the City of Helotes lacks the fiscal capacity to absorb the substantial cost of a new front-line fire engine, which exceeds \$1.5 million, and replacing this aging apparatus will ensure first responders have the dependable equipment necessary to protect life and property. This project has a federal nexus because it is for the purposes authorized in Section 306 of the *Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act*, 7 U.S. Code section 1926(a).

I certify that I have no financial interest in this project, and neither does anyone in my immediate family.

Sincerely,

Tony Gonzales  
U.S. Representative  
23rd Congressional District of Texas