

**For Immediate Release**

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## **Governor Musgrove Announces Additional Grants to Mississippi Communities for Homeland Security**

(Jackson, MS) – Governor Ronnie Musgrove today announced an additional \$11.5 million in grants to local communities through the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency (MEMA). These additional funds, combined with the \$4.2 million previously awarded, brings the total FY 2003 Homeland Security Grant awards to \$15.7 million, directly benefiting local governments in their efforts to increase emergency preparedness and response to potential terrorists attacks in Mississippi.

“These funds will be used by local governments in their continued efforts to ensure the safety and security of Mississippians,” said Governor Musgrove. “We have the finest emergency response and management professionals that you will find anywhere. These grant awards will support their efforts to ensure our citizens’ safety.”

The \$11.5 million grant award is for local communities to purchase equipment that enhances their ability to respond to weapons of mass destruction (WMD) incidents. All 82 counties, plus every city, town and village that has at least a police department and/or a fire department will be awarded homeland security grant monies by MEMA to enhance their response to WMD events.

“We are pleased to be able to award funds for all counties and the majority of our municipalities, towns and villages throughout the state to support these local communities homeland security initiatives,” said MEMA Director Robert Latham. “These funds require no local match and support the emergency response equipment needs of our communities.”

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