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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

## Grant Awarded

The South Mills Volunteer Fire Department was recently awarded an Albemarle Community Trust grant to fund its Junior Firefighter program.

The program enables the fire department to recruit young adults to participate in training with the fire department as well as assist in fighting fires in a capacity limited to safe tasks. Fire Chief Tommy Banks said that some of the junior firefighters, after graduating high school, have become full fledged volunteer firefighters. Banks also said that part of the funds will be used to purchase tables and chairs for training areas. \

Initiated in 2001, ACT is funded by Albemarle EMC members who agree to have their bills rounded up to the nearest dollar each month. The amounts by which the bills are rounded up are then put into the fund. The donations average \$6 per year per participating member. A nine-member board awards the grants to nonprofit organizations.