mittee Sally Jewell
Climate
ouncil.
ving a lot of priority to
about how the territory
address climate change,
aid, going so far as to
it was on the agenda for

said Jewell requested
g with the council.

ated as part of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. However, ready funding for the territory is stymied because it must move through Congress, which is less willing to earmark monies for territory-specific issues.

"The territories are only receiving monies through existing federal programs; through the Department of Interior," Malone said, noting that places such as St. Lucia are able to look for funds from the U.N. and international resources.

Malone said he hopes to discuss additional funding sources for U.S. territories while Jewell is here.

Jewell will arrive Wednesday, accompanied by Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas Esther Kia'aina.

Jewell will meet with Gov. Kenneth Mapp, deliver keynote remarks at the 99th Transfer Day Ceremony, and visit the V.I. National Park on St. John to make an announcement with local fourth-graders from the Julius E. Sprauve

cumstances of the territory."

The Department of the Interior, through the Office of Insular Areas, is responsible for coordinating federal policy with the U.S. Virgin Islands, the territories of American Samoa, Guam, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

— Contact Jonathan Austin at 340-714-9104 or email jaustin@dailynews.vi.

rior Department announces $5 million in grants for Virgin Islands

THAN AUSTIN
s Staff

. Department of the Inte-
nounced nearly $5 million
nding for the U.S. Virgin
advance of the visit this
Interior Secretary Sally

nt Secretary for Insular
her Kia'aina said Monday
nding will "support a wide
ocal government initiatives
among other things, help
ilience to the impacts of
hange, strengthen essential
vices, foster economic op-
and promote government
for the islands' people."
d the assistance package
the USVI government
apacity for climate change
and adaptation, upgrade
infrastructure and equip-
rease public health services
erved communities, repair
hool buildings, renovate
raries, and develop edu-
outreach programs regard-
slands' self-determination
The funding is provided by
Office of Insular Affairs
and maintenance assis-
capital improvement pro-
a'aina said.
said she was pleased to
e grants "as the Virgin Is-
rks the 99th anniversary of
r to the United States, and

prepares for its centennial commemoration of that historic event."

The technical assistance, capital improvement, and maintenance assistance grant funding awards and descriptions for FY 2016 are:

Technical Assistance Program

• Capacity Building and Educational Awareness of Self-Determination — $250,000 to the University of the Virgin Islands to establish an Office of Self-Determination and Constitutional Development. The office will work with the Centennial Commemoration Commission and other stakeholders across the territory to address the issue of self-determination. Major duties and responsibilities include political status and constitutional education; research and development; mass public education; and complementing activities of the Centennial Commemoration Commission.

• Climate Change Adaptation Planning — $828,050 to the U.S. Virgin Islands Climate Change Council to develop a framework for climate change adaptation and planning by assembling a project team to research and collect information related to climate change vulnerability and risks associated with multi-sectors of society; and to strengthen relationships with governmental and nongovernmental partners to prioritize adaptation and mitigation plans; and to develop a robust multi-sector climate adaptation strategy.

• Public Health Prevention — $80,000 to the St. Thomas East End Medical Center Corporation to increase services geared to improving the health status of rural and underserved populations by addressing the impact of climate change and implement community outreach activities relative to health literacy and education for non-communicable and chronic diseases.

• Hospital Equipment Upgrades — $400,000 to the Juan F. Luis Hospital for operating rooms, upgrade for new equipment for Orthopedics, Cardiology, Gastroenterology and General Surgery, including a sterilization machine, anesthesia machines, biomedical testing equipment and machine servicing.

Maintenance Assistance Program

• Hospital Roof Rehabilitation — $100,000 to the Juan F. Luis Hospital to help support complete renovation and replacement of the hospital roof infrastructure.

• Utility Crane Truck — $169,000 to the U.S. Virgin Islands Water and Power Authority for a 17-ton crane truck to enable the utility maintenance team to transport pipes of different sizes, remove and replace existing waterline in trenches with new waterlines, and transport equipment to and from the construction site.

Capital Improvement Program

• Enid M. Baa Public Library, St. Thomas — $480,000 to complete structural renovations and technology upgrades including design, engineering, and structural reconfiguration of the second and third floors of the library. Renovations will include upgrades to electrical wiring that has been damaged by water leaking in during rainstorms.

• Regional Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, St. Croix — $105,000 for the purchase and installation of a new powder-coated aluminum shelving system for audio books for the blind, an upgraded wiring system within the building to meet increased demands of electrical equipment and assistive devices, and the purchase of new office furniture and computer stations to accommodate the Public Computing Center and assistive devices for broadband internet access.

• Elaine Ione Sprauve Public Library, St. John — $100,000 for the design and installation of a photovoltaic system for efficient energy production and consumption, improvements to parking areas to improve access for patrons, installation of a security system and exterior lighting, improvements to guttering system and replacement of air conditioning units. The funding supplements a fiscal year 2015 CIP grant for $65,000 for similar structural renovations.

• Athalie M. Petersen Public Library, St. Croix — $190,000 for the renovation of the subterranean flood-prone Children's Room to prevent further damage, replacement of doors and windows compromised by weather damage, and repairs and upgrades to the plumbing infrastructure. The funding supplements a fiscal year 2015 CIP grant for $250,000 for similar structural renovations.

• Florence A. Williams Public Library, St. Croix — $125,000 to purchase and install an integrated security system for print and DVD collections and special collections in the Caribbean Research Room, upgrades to the plumbing infrastructure, and long-term technology upgrades including a storage area network, plotter/printer, and a teleconferencing system. This funding supplements a FY 2015 CIP grant for $600,000 for similar structural renovations.

• Insular Assessment of Buildings and Classrooms (ABCs) Initiative — $1,939,000 will be used to address high-priority health and safety deferred maintenance items identified in the Office of Insular Affairs' most recent assessment of school buildings across the territory. The repairs will include the installation or replacement of fire alarm systems, upgrades to fire protection and plumbing infrastructure, upgrades to heating, ventilation, air conditioning (HVAC) systems and priority structural repairs.

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