

*Washington, DC* - Congressman Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) today announced that the Lake Huntington Fire Company has been awarded a \$35,526 federal grant to purchase new equipment. The funds, which cover 95 percent of the cost of the new equipment, come from the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program, which is administered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the United States Fire Administration (USFA).

The Lake Huntington Fire Company will help the all volunteer unit buy a heavy duty washing machine to clean its turnout (protective) gear as well as an emergency power generator for the firehouse. The funds will also help purchase a system that will refill their self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) tanks. The Lake Huntington Fire Company previously received federal funding for 30 sets of turnout gear and a thermal imaging camera to help firefighters see through smoke, darkness, or heat-permeable barriers.

"These federal funds will allow the Lake Huntington Fire Company to purchase much-needed equipment that enables its volunteers to continue to provide the highest level of service to the community," Hinchey said. "The new washing machine will help to maintain and protect the fire company's significant investment in new protective equipment, which was funded through this grant program last year. The backup generator for the firehouse is an absolute necessity for power outages, and the new air filling system will allow the fire company to stay in compliance with new safety standards."

As a member of the House Appropriations Committee, Hinchey has worked to secure full funding for the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program, since its inception in 2001. Since the fire grant program started, more than \$13 million in grants have been awarded to fire and emergency departments in Hinchey's congressional district.

The congressman has sponsored a number of workshops across his congressional district to help fire departments successfully navigate the grant application process. Hinchey is also the author of the SERVE (Supporting Emergency Responders' Volunteer Efforts) Act, which would provide a \$1,000 federal tax credit to individuals who are active members of volunteer firefighting and EMS organizations.