

Highland Lake, NY - Congressman Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) today announced that the Highland Lake Fire Department has been awarded a \$218,500 federal grant to purchase a new firefighting vehicle. The funds 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).

"These federal funds will allow the Highland Lake Fire Department to purchase a new firefighting vehicle that will ensure that the department's volunteers can continue to serve their communities during fires, accidents and other emergencies," Hinchey said. "This funding will cover 95 percent of the cost of the new vehicle and allow the department to use its locally-raised funds for other critical needs. Grant funding for vehicles is very competitive, and Highland Lake deserves credit for putting together a strong application that resulted in such a substantial grant award."

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.