

Washington, DC - Congressman Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) today announced that the Olive Fire Department has been awarded a federal grant for \$162,241 to purchase new firefighting equipment. 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 Olive Fire Department to purchase new firefighting equipment that will ensure that its all volunteer department is able to continue to serve its community safely during fires, accidents and other emergencies," Hinchey said.

The funds allocated to the Olive Fire Department are for the purchase of a new compressor system and 24 air packs. The compressor system, which replaces an aging and now inoperable system, allows firefighters to fill air tanks without paying an outside vendor and being subject to vendor schedules. The new air packs are upgraded Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) units utilizing newer technology for safety and efficiency.

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.