

West Endicott, NY - Congressman Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) today announced that the West Endicott Fire Company has been awarded a \$17,051 federal grant to purchase approximately 10 sets of protective clothing, as well as radio equipment and air packs for its volunteer firefighters.

"This funding will help make certain that West Endicott's volunteer firefighters have the proper equipment they need to do their job," Hinchey said. "We must ensure that these volunteers have the appropriate tools to keep themselves safe. This grant helps to ensure that West Endicott's firefighters have up to date equipment that will help shield them from danger as they risk their lives to save others."

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). 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.