

Rochester, NY – Congresswoman Louise Slaughter (NY-28) today announced that the Rochester Fire Department will receive a \$520,000 grant to bolster and improve fire safety and emergency response capabilities in Rochester.

The funds, to be used for Rochester Fire emergency vehicle acquisition, will boost Rochester Fire's ability to respond in the case of a chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, or explosive (CBRNE) threat.

"These funds will enhance the Rochester Fire Department's capacity to respond effectively to the emergency needs of our community," said Slaughter. "All of us in the greater Rochester community will sleep better knowing that our capabilities for responding to urgent needs will be improved because of this grant."

The grant funds come from the FY 2009 Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) program of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). The Rochester Fire Department plans to use the grant for the acquisition of a Heavy Rescue Vehicle for Special Operations and CBRNE responses.

The AFG program awards grants directly to fire departments and EMS organizations that are unaffiliated with a hospital to enhance their ability to protect the health and safety of the public and first-responder personnel. Using a competitive process that is overseen by fire service subject matter experts, AFG grants are awarded to applicants whose requests best address the priorities of the AFG Program.