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Senator Tim Kennedy and Lackawanna Mayor Annette Iafallo Announce Funding for New Fire Training Facility

State Funding Secured by Kennedy Will Allow City to Construct New Three Story Training Facility and Lifesaving Emergency Equipment

Iafallo Hails ‘Transformative Investment’ in Advanced Firefighter Training Tools and Resources

LACKAWANNA, N.Y. – Senator Tim Kennedy (D-Buffalo) and City of Lackawanna Mayor Annette Iafallo today announced \$235,000 in state funding for Lackawanna to construct a new fire training facility that will provide first responders with a state-of-the-art facility to prepare for responding to fire and first aid calls. The facility, which will be located on Steelawanna Avenue in Lackawanna, would consist of a concrete base with a 30 foot, three-story training tower, along with two shipping containers to assist with search and rescue training, and a roof simulator for ventilation training. Additionally, the funding will allow the City to purchase ‘Jaws of Life’ extrication equipment, and props that simulate vehicle, stove, and dumpster fires for training purposes. The money was secured by Kennedy after the City flagged an increased need for additional training space for first responders.

“This new facility will provide Lackawanna’s bravest with the space to hone life-saving skills and train new recruits as they join the fire department. By securing this funding, we’re not only making an investment in our first responders, but we’re making a strategic, forward-thinking commitment to public safety and the greater good of our community,” said **Senator Tim Kennedy**. “I’m pleased to deliver this funding alongside Mayor Annette Iafallo, the city’s Public Safety Director John Wolf, and Fire Chief James Fino, and I look forward to seeing their leadership bring this vision to life.”

“City of Lackawanna firefighters are among the area’s most highly skilled first responders and with this new state-of-the-art training facility, the department’s training programs and resources will rise to even greater levels,” said **Mayor Annette Iafallo**. “We’re grateful to Senator Kennedy for providing this generous funding support, which will help to ensure the safety of Lackawanna residents and firefighters for many years to come.”

“Every fire call is unique and with this new training facility, Lackawanna firefighters will receive a best-in-class training experience for those various fire and rescue scenarios under

realistic conditions,” said **Fire Chief James Fino**. “This training will help our crews make even faster assessments of fire situations, which is vital for ensuring resident safety and minimizing property damage or loss of life.”

In 2021, the Lackawanna Fire Department responded to 3,699 calls in 2021, up 408 over 2020. Of these calls, 2,639 were for emergency medical services. Firefighters responded to 106 fires, nearly the same as last year.

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