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Senator Tim Kennedy and Lackawanna Mayor Annette Iafallo Join City Firefighters to Unveil New Fire Training Facility

*State Funding Secured by Kennedy Supported the Construction of a New Three Story
Training Facility and Lifesaving Emergency Equipment*

*Lackawanna Commemorates Facility Opening with Fire Department
Demonstrations of Fire & Rescue Situations*

LACKAWANNA, N.Y. – Senator Tim Kennedy (D-Buffalo) and City of Lackawanna Mayor Annette Iafallo (D) joined members of the Lackawanna Fire Department today to unveil a new fire training facility that will provide first responders with a state-of-the-art space to prepare for responding to fire and first aid calls. The facility’s construction was made possible by \$235,000 in state funding secured by Kennedy, after Lackawanna identified a need for firefighter training capabilities within city limits to ensure appropriate staffing and equipment levels remained in service at all times. Prior to construction of the new training center, Lackawanna Firefighters trained at the Erie County Fire Services Training Academy in Cheektowaga, which is 9 miles away.

The training facility, which is located at 8 N. Steelawanna Avenue in Lackawanna’s First Ward, consists 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 allowed the city to purchase ‘Jaws of Life’ extrication equipment, and props that simulate vehicle, stove, and dumpster fires for training purposes.

“When Lackawanna’s bravest told us about their need for additional training space, my office got to work to identify how, not if, we could make this possible. By delivering this funding, we’re unveiling a tangible investment in how first responders hone life-saving skills and train new recruits, and we’re making a strategic commitment to public safety,” said **Senator Tim Kennedy**. “Today is a win for our first responders, and I’m honored to continue to support the courageous work they do each and every day on behalf of our community.”

“Making Lackawanna safer for all who live and work here is one of my administration’s highest priorities and through this generous grant from Sen. Kennedy’s office, Lackawanna firefighters now have ready access to state-of-the-art training right here in our city,” said Mayor Annette Iafallo. “The Lackawanna Fire Department is renowned for its professional and timely response to emergency situations and I’m grateful for the opportunity to partner with Sen. Kennedy to continue supporting the great work our brave firefighters perform every day.”

“ Thanks to Sen. Kennedy’s generosity and continued support from Mayor Iafallo and the city council, the goal of creating a dedicated Fire Training Facility in Lackawanna has finally been achieved,” said Fire Chief James Fino. “This new facility will ensure that all members of our small department are fully trained to respond to any type of fire and medical emergency while keeping our firefighters and apparatus within city limits - which is critical to our ability to respond quickly to emergency calls and provide uncompromised service throughout Lackawanna.”

In 2022, the Lackawanna Fire Department responded to 3,817 calls, up from 3,699 the prior year. Of these calls, 2,694 (71%) were for emergency medical services and 64 fires.

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