



Congressman Tim Bishop

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NEWS RELEASE

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BISHOP ANNOUNCES \$105K GRANT TO SHIRLEY FIRST RESPONDERS

Vols Receive Homeland Security Grant to Improve Safety

Shirley, NY: Congressman Tim Bishop today announced a \$105,480 federal grant for the Shirley Community Ambulance Company. The volunteers will receive the funding in a one-year grant to install fume eliminators in the ambulance garage, install a sprinkler system that will improve safety as well as purchase uniforms that meet Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) standards.

“This new federal grant will allow Shirley’s first responders to do their jobs more safely, while not adding to our local tax burden,” Bishop said. “I congratulate the Shirley volunteers on this successful grant award. One of my top priorities in Congress is working for the first responders who protect our community.”

“This grant will allow important improvements for the department,” Dennis Daugherty, Chief of the Shirley Ambulance Company, said. “These funds will do a lot to protect our personnel. It will make sure that people using our garage do not breathe in toxins and the sprinkler system is very important to improve the safety of our building.”

“The 2006 Board of Directors put together this grant proposal,” Daugherty added. “We are grateful to the Board of Directors working together with Congressman Bishop’s office for securing this important funding.”

The grant was given as part of the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program. The Department of Homeland Security’s Office for Domestic Preparedness (ODP) administers the program, in cooperation with the U.S. Fire Administration. In the last Fiscal Year, the program was cut from \$650 million to \$485 million. Bishop will work in the current Congress to fund the program at a higher level.

The Shirley Community Ambulance Company submitted an application for assistance in the Operations and Firefighter Safety Program. This program includes training, equipment, personal protective equipment, wellness and fitness, and modifications to fire stations and facilities.

In the past, only fire departments were eligible for such grants. However, a new grant procedure was announced allowing unaffiliated agencies, such as volunteer ambulance companies, to apply for grants. Each year, Bishop holds a series of funding workshops for local first responders to make them aware of new rules that could help them. Bishop will be hosting workshops on February 21 at 7:00 p.m. at the Suffolk County Fire Rescue and Emergency Service Building in Yaphank and on February 22 at 10:00 a.m. at the Eastport Fire Department.

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