

KIRSTEN GILLIBRAND

NEW YORK  
SENATOR

RUSSELL SENATE OFFICE BUILDING  
SUITE 478  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3205  
202-224-4451

COMMITTEES:  
ARMED SERVICES  
ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS  
AGRICULTURE  
SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3205

January 24, 2017

Mr. Robert J. Fenton, Jr.  
Acting Administrator  
Federal Emergency Management Agency  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
500 C Street S.W., Washington, D.C. 20472

Dear Administrator Fenton,

I write in support of the application submitted by the Elizabethtown Lewis Emergency Squad, Inc. for funding from the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program through the Federal Emergency Management Agency. This funding will be used to purchase two power ambulance cots, and two patient surface extenders for their advanced life support ambulance service.

The Elizabethtown Lewis Emergency Squad serves the communities of Elizabethtown and Lewis, which are located in a rural and mountainous region in Essex County. The Squad provides 24-hour emergency medical coverage, and acts as a paramedic intercept for a 577-square-mile area that is home to 12,356 residents. Additionally, the Squad is responsible for supporting the fire departments protecting the 16 miles of Interstate 87, which carries over 8.3 million vehicles annually, and Route 9, which carries over 4 million vehicles annually. Traffic accidents requiring vehicle extrications have doubled along these roads since 2000.

The requested funding will be used to purchase two power ambulance cots and two patient surface extenders for the Squad. As the Squad serves a rural area, it is imperative that first responders have updated rescue equipment to effectively respond to emergency situations. The power cot will decrease the time and number of EMTs required to load and unload patients in an emergency and the surface extenders are necessary for the safe transfer and transportation of larger patients. Funding for this new equipment will allow the Emergency Squad to respond to emergencies as safely and effectively as possible.

I ask that you give this application your full consideration. If you have any questions, or desire further information, please do not hesitate to contact my staff member, Laura Driscoll, at (202) 224-4451.

Sincerely,



Kirsten Gillibrand  
United States Senator