



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Lea Webb

Senator Lea Webb Allocates \$250,000 to the Ithaca Fire Department

LEA WEBB September 18, 2024

| ISSUE: **PUBLIC SAFETY**



ITHACA, NY — Today, Senator Lea Webb announced that she has allocated \$250,000 in state funding to the Ithaca Fire Department (IFD) to support the purchase of a new fire rescue boat. This funding will significantly enhance the department's ability to respond to emergencies on Cayuga Lake, ensuring the safety of residents and visitors alike.

The new 26-foot purpose-built fire rescue boat will replace IFD's aging 21-foot vessel, which has limited capacity and no fire suppression capabilities. With advanced technology and equipment, the new boat will be able to simultaneously rescue up to eight people and deliver

1250 gallons of water per minute from a fixed monitor. It will also be equipped to safely operate in inclement weather, providing essential rescue services and firefighting capabilities for boat, marina, and shore-based fires.

“As the only career fire department on Cayuga Lake, the Ithaca Fire Department plays a critical role in protecting our community, both on land and water,” **said Senator Webb**. “I am thrilled to have secured this funding to help them purchase a new fire rescue boat, ensuring they can respond swiftly and effectively to emergencies. This investment will enhance public safety and protect the countless families and visitors who enjoy Cayuga Lake year-round. I am committed to supporting the safety and well-being of our community.”

“We are thrilled to receive this much-needed funding for the Ithaca Fire Department,” **said Mayor Robert Cantelmo**. “Cayuga Lake is a cherished resource for our community, and ensuring the safety of everyone who enjoys it is a top priority. This new fire rescue boat will be a vital tool for our first responders, allowing them to act swiftly and effectively in emergencies. I want to thank Senator Webb for her continued support and commitment to the well-being of our city and its residents.”

“We are incredibly grateful for Senator Webb’s support in securing this funding,” **said Robert Covert, Chief of the Ithaca Fire Department**. “The new fire rescue boat will greatly enhance our ability to respond quickly and effectively to emergencies on Cayuga Lake. With advanced rescue and fire suppression capabilities, we’ll be better equipped to protect both our residents and the many visitors who come to enjoy the lake. This is a critical upgrade that will help us serve the community more safely and efficiently.”

BACKGROUND:

The new boat will be stationed at Treman Marina on the south end of Cayuga Lake, a key area for recreation and tourism with challenging shorelines and limited access for

responders. The Ithaca Fire Department covers the Tompkins County portion of Cayuga Lake. The upgraded boat will improve coordination for fire suppression, rescue operations, and hazmat responses, especially in hard-to-reach areas. IFD, also the county's designated Hazmat Response Team, manages emergencies beyond fires, including fuel spills along the lake and railroad.

###

Watch the Full Announcement ([LINK](#)) | Photos From the Announcement ([LINK](#))