



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

May 2, 2025

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
House Appropriations Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro,

I am requesting funding for West Athens Lime Street Firehouse in Fiscal Year 2026. The entity to receive funding for this project is West Athens Lime Street Fire District located at 933 Leeds Athens Rd, Athens, NY 12015.

This funding would be used to assist the West Athens Lime Street Fire District in constructing a new firehouse that will replace its current facility, which no longer meets the operational or safety needs of the district. The existing station is too small to house modern fire apparatus, forcing the district to order custom, undersized vehicles at additional cost. The new firehouse site is more centrally located and offers more space for training, improving response times and readiness. The building will also serve as a federally recognized disaster shelter, offering greater resilience and protection for the community during emergencies. The new facility will include designated areas for decontamination, a turnout gear washer, and an exhaust removal system to reduce exposure to carcinogens and diesel fumes—hazards increasingly linked to long-term health risks for firefighters.

This project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because it directly improves emergency response and firefighter safety in a rural community that relies heavily on volunteer services. A new, centrally located facility will reduce response times, allow use of standard equipment, and include modern safety features. This investment strengthens rural emergency services and protects public health.

This project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is for the purposes authorized in Section 306 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, 7 U.S. Code section 1926(a).

I certify that I have no financial interest in this project, and neither does anyone in my immediate family.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'JR' with a large loop on the left and a horizontal line extending to the right.

Josh Riley
Member of Congress