



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

James L. Seward

## Seward Kicks the Tires on Olive FD UTV

JEFF BISHOP, COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR December 5, 2017

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**SHOKAN, 12/04/17** – State Senator James L. Seward (R/C/I/Ref-Oneonta) today joined Olive Fire Department officials to unveil the department’s new heavy-duty utility terrain vehicle (UTV). Senator Seward secured \$35,000 in state funding to assist in the purchase of the UTV.

**“It is imperative that our first responders are properly equipped – to protect life and property and to ensure their own safety,”** said Senator Seward. **“This new UTV meets a critical need and the state funding eases the financial burden on the small rural volunteer department.”**

Olive Fire Chief Chris Winne said, “When an emergency call comes in and our crews are dispatched they are never certain exactly what they will encounter, so it is vital that we are equipped to face all circumstances. We are fortunate to have many scenic recreational areas in our backyard, but they do offer special challenges in the event of an emergency. Thanks to Senator Seward’s support we will be better equipped to help those in need in remote locations of the Town of Olive and beyond.”

The \$35,000 grant secured by Senator Seward was used to purchase a new Polaris 6x6 with a Kimtek skid unit. The UTV is capable of carrying 85 gallons of water and includes a 5 gallon foam cell, a 100 foot booster hose, and is equipped with a patient carry area for rescue calls in off road areas. The department also purchased an 8x16 enclosed trailer to transport the UTV to emergency scenes.

**“The demands on the Olive Fire Department are vast, but their financial resources are limited. The planned Ashokan Rail Trail will grow the number of people enjoying all our region has to offer, but will also place increased responsibility on the shoulders of our first responders. The department is taking sensible steps to prepare for the added challenges and I am extremely pleased to assist them with this key equipment purchase,”** Seward concluded.

The Olive Fire Department consists of five companies with 95 active volunteers covering the entire Town of Olive and surrounding towns through a mutual aid agreement. The department responds to approximately 220 calls a year.