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***Mayor Fulop and Public Safety Director Shea Announce \$3.2 Million Upgrade of JCFD Apparatus through Aggressive Two-Year Replacement Program as Administration Continues to Expand Public Safety***

***Six New Fire Vehicles, Including Ladder Trucks, Pumpers and an Urban High Water Rescue Boat Acquired Through Federal Grants, Low-Interest Leases and Capital Investment in First Major Purchase of Fire Equipment in More than a Decade***

JERSEY CITY – Mayor Steven M. Fulop and Public Safety Director James Shea unveiled today **six new fire department vehicles** that were purchased through an **aggressive two-year replacement program** as the Fulop Administration continues to expand public safety for residents.

The new equipment includes a 100-foot ladder truck, a 95-foot tower ladder truck, a 2,000 gallon/minute pumper truck, two 1,500 gallon/minute pumper trucks and an urban high water rescue vehicle with pumping capabilities and an inflatable boat.

“As Jersey City continues to grow, we are working to not only upgrade our public safety equipment, but to do so with the least impact on the taxpayers,” said **Mayor Fulop**. “By utilizing a combination of grants, smart leasing programs and capital dollars, we were able to purchase six new fire vehicles that replace outdated equipment to ensure our residents have the highest level of fire safety protection.”

The purchase of the new apparatus was made possible by the administration’s **two-year long, aggressive fire apparatus replacement program** that used federal grants and low-interest loan programs to have the least impact on taxpayers. The program was created to repair and replace dated or damaged equipment. Several pieces of fire apparatus were in need of major repairs or replacement, as most of the previous fire apparatus was between 15 and 20 years old.

“One of the first things we wanted to do was upgrade equipment in the Fire Department, as this had been neglected for years,” said **Director Shea**. “The new apparatus not only provides an added level of safety for our residents, but also for our firefighters and we will continue to seek cost-effective measures to acquire new equipment.”

The new apparatus serves as a continuation of the Fulop administration’s ongoing efforts to expand public safety and was made a reality through the creation of a cost effective plan that utilized federal grants, smart, low-interest lease-to-own purchase, and capital funds. Since taking office, the Fulop administration has hired 66 new firefighters bringing the department to a total of 580 members.

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“This is yet another example of local and federal government working together to make communities safer,” said **Senator Robert Menendez**. “The federal funding awarded to Jersey City will help ensure its firefighters are well-equipped to save lives and protect neighborhoods.”

During the last 24 months, the administration added the following apparatus to the JCFD fleet:

1. 100 foot ladder truck, cost \$625,000, lease/purchase at 2% over 7 years
2. 95 foot tower ladder truck, cost \$939,000, purchased with 80% of cost paid by a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) grant
3. 2,000 GPM pumper truck (high volume), cost \$527,000, lease purchase at 2% over 7 years
4. 1,500 GPM pumper truck, cost \$438,000, lease/purchase at 2% over 7 years
5. 1,500 GPM pumper truck, cost \$422,000, purchased via capital funds
6. Urban high water rescue vehicle, vehicle has pumping capabilities. Also, carries inflatable boat for urban rescues, cost \$225,000, paid for by a federal Urban Areas Security Initiatives (UASI) grant.

“The upgraded equipment these federal grants will provide to the brave firefighters of Jersey City will help protect them as they protect their community,” said **Senator Cory Booker**. “Senator Menendez and I believe that our firefighters deserve cutting-edge training and the best equipment to save lives. We will continue to tirelessly advocate for grant programs such as this one to achieve those ends.”

**All media inquiries should be directed to Jennifer Morrill, Press Secretary to Mayor Steven M. Fulop at 201-547-4836 or 201-376-0699. ////**