

Mead gets new truck, ambulance

By Phil Richmond | Posted: Friday, March 6, 2015 1:45 am

MEAD – The Mead Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department has two new tools in its bag to respond to a growing number of fire and rescue calls in the area.

The department took possession of a new fire engine and a new ambulance within the past two weeks.

The fire engine arrived Feb. 20 and the ambulance arrived Feb. 23, said Fire Chief Nick Raver.

The engine is a modified military surplus truck that was converted to a fire truck by the University of Nebraska Forestry Department. It cost \$55,000.

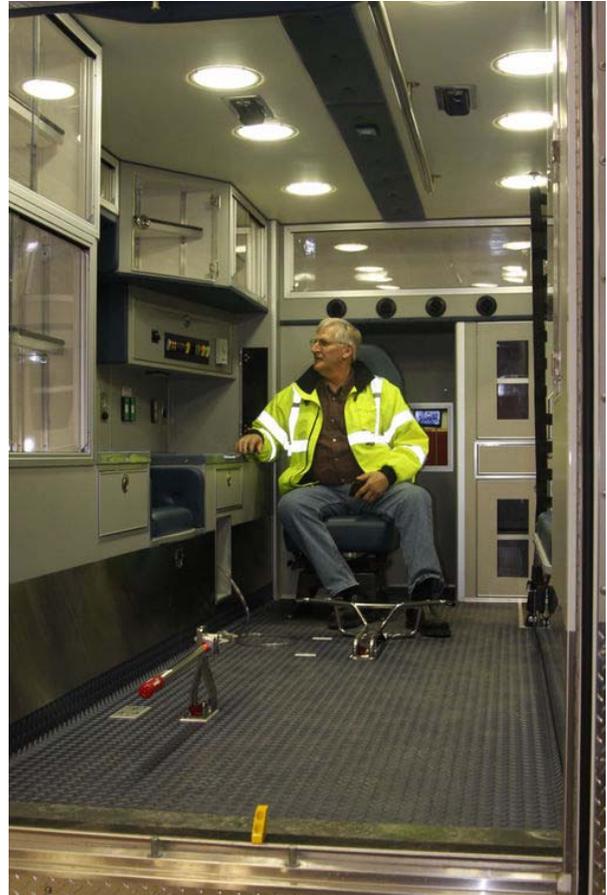
“If you had to buy it new, it would cost you about \$350,000,” Raver said. “It will do just about anything you ask it to do.”

A similar truck the department purchased in the past recently pulled a state snow plow out of a drift after it became stuck on Highway, Raver said.

The ambulance was purchased from a Missouri-based company at a cost of \$159,000. Medical monitoring and assistance equipment for the unit will cost an additional \$12,000.

George Robertson, rescue unit chief, said the new equipment is needed because the number of mutual aid calls the department responds to is increasing rapidly.

For instance, Robertson said, in 2013 the department responded to 59 calls. In 2014, that total was 112.



Second Unit

A second ambulance for the Mead rescue squad was recently received by the Mead Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department. The ambulance will serve as a backup and a second ambulance when needed. (Staff Photos by Phil Richmond).

“We’ve just been mutual aided by surrounding districts,” Raver said. “And we’re on record pace this year.”

Robertson said because the department has 11 registered emergency medical technicians, the department now can run two squads at one time.

Raver said no bond issue was used and the purchases will not increase taxes. Rather, he said, the equipment will be paid for through billing fees and donations.