

The Crooks Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department is located in Crooks, SD just five short miles from Sioux Falls, the largest metro area in South Dakota. As with any rural departments, our needs are great. Our department has set many budgetary goals and programs over the last ten years to keep us up on most of our needs. There are some areas that we simply don't have the funds to take care of.

We are requesting \$89,498.00 for the purchase of a Brush / Quick Attack vehicle. The members of the department have put a lot of concerted effort into the selection of the vehicle that we would like. We are proposing a Ford F-550 4-door chassis with a Honda 20 hp, 500-gpm pump, 250-gallon booster tank, 25 gallon integrated Class A foam cell and rescue style body compartments. We would be able to solve two of our major problems with one vehicle.

The first area of concern for our department is the area of interstate highway that we cover. In our primary response area, we have over 20 miles of the busiest interstate in the entire state of South Dakota. In our automatic aid areas, there is an additional 15 miles of the same type of territory. There is no other volunteer department in the state of South Dakota that covers as much of the interstate system as we do. While the population of our primary response territory is still under 3000, the traffic that comes to and from Sioux Falls, which has a population 135,000, is tremendous. Approximately 40% of all our calls are in this territory. The vehicles that we have on the department at this time make it difficult to maneuver to our incident locations. We have everything from vehicle fires, grass fires, extrications and medical calls all in the same areas. Currently our first due engine is the primary response vehicle for these calls. It is a Spartan custom pumper that is almost 36 feet long. While this truck serves us well for structural firefighting and other tasks that the department handles, it is very cumbersome to handle and maneuver on the interstate. With a new vehicle we would be able to transport our personnel to the scene in a safer way. Instead of having to run out with our larger trucks, the 4-door cab would allow us to carry 5 firefighters in a easily maneuverable apparatus that would not only get them on scene safer, but also put water and foam at their fingertips much quicker than we can now.

The second area of concern is the storage of our rescue equipment. We were fortunate enough to get an AFG last year that has provided us with a full complement of hydraulic rescue tools. With the vehicles that we respond with now, we have some of the rescue tools on each apparatus because of limitations with space in compartments. With the design of this new apparatus, we would have all of our rescue equipment in one convenient location. In the last two years our department has established a remarkable record in our training department. We currently have 24 members on our roster. Of those 24, we have 18 certified firefighters while the other 6 are EMT-B certified. We also have 14 personnel certified as Driver / Operator, 18 personnel certified as Rescue Technicians and 16 personnel certified through the state for wild land firefighting. This new vehicle would allow the certified members of the department the ultimate vehicle to manage our grass fire, car fire, and rescue calls from one location. This would improve not only our ability to respond to those situations, but the time required to get to and from those incidents.

Overall the potential cost of our proposal when divided out among the citizens and fire fighters it will benefit is approximately \$2.08. We will positively impact the 2450 citizens in our direct coverage area and the many thousands of people that travel through our territory every single day.