



How to say thank you for our new Ambulance ? It is so much more than just a truck with a box on it.

Last year, our Volunteer Department handled 112 calls. This new tool assists our community and helps us as first responders. It is such a pleasure to get to the firehouse, turn on the light and open the doors and have every confidence that you, as a first responder have the equipment to help people when they need it most.

We roll out of the firehouse, report easily to dispatch, and head down the road to the next emergency with excellent lights and siren if needed. We have the added confidence that our crew is well equipped. Oxygen, and Evac system, LED lighting for both inside as well as outside. Being able to see so well at night feels safe. Comfortable climate control so important for wintertime calls.

One of the features of our new rig that is most helpful is the new Ambulance Stretcher which allows us to move even heavy patients without doing any heavy lifting. We never run out of Battery Power as the battery provides many lifts without recharging and the cot is set up to charge automatically when placed into the ambulance. It charges while going down the road and when it is plugged in back at the station. Already we have used it many times with ease. We have noticed that not having to deal with what may seem like small things, improves our response time.

This ambulance with ride control gives the rig added stability that we need on our winding mountain roads. Set it to automatically adjust or dial in adjustment for when we are off road and need extra clearance, which happens often in our mountain community. Plenty of power when

we need it and adding the engine brake is so helpful when coming down our mountain roads. Riding in the back with a patient is therefore easier for our EMT's. It provides a smooth ride which was appreciated by a patient we had already with a broken hip. Our mountain roads do present a challenge at times and this new rig, with 4-wheel drive, is set up to take the challenge.

Another feature that makes our work less stressful is that the ambulance automatically lowers itself when the rear doors get opened. Fire fighters and EMT's upon "arrival" can get right to work treating the patient. Previously there were buttons to push, things to keep in mind and the need to remember these small things when dealing with trauma patients creates a bit of anxiety for any first responder. For these things to be automatic helps.

Safety features on this ambulance are not annoying but helpful. For example, the electrical cord that gets plugged in at the station to keep all batteries and systems ready, has an automatic device that spits the cord out and detaches the cord from the ambulance so that no one accidentally drives out of the bay forgetting to remove the plug. Seat belts for all, front and back and Communication between driver and EMT's is easily accomplished.

Our new Ambulance makes our work easier, but, more importantly, more efficient. As firefighters and EMT's we appreciate it. We are thankful and proud to be apart of a VFD that is well equipped.

Special thanks to following for their donation:

- Colorado Department of Pubic Health & Environment
- Larimer County Long Term Recovery Group
- Larimer County United Way Wildfire Fund
- Foundation of Northern Colorado
- Cache la Poudre Fire & Emergency Group
- El Pomar Foundation