

Winter Park to buy ambulance from company in Longwood

By Yvonne C.T. Vassel

OF THE SENTINEL STAFF

WINTER PARK — The city commission Wednesday decided to get a new ambulance for the fire department from Aero Products Inc. of Longwood.

The commission decided to get an ambulance at its Sept. 22 meeting after businessman Philip Crosby donated \$20,000 toward the emergency vehicle.

The city will buy the ambulance through an existing contract Orange County has with Aero Products. As a municipality, Winter Park can use county contracts where applicable and with the county's permission.

The new vehicle would be similar to units operated by the Maitland and Oviedo fire departments. Assistant fire chief Larry Grainger told the commission he and the department's

emergency medical training officer, Louis Salado, had driven those units and were pleased with their performance.

However, Winter Park plans to have some minor alterations done to the interior to suit its specific needs.

The new ambulance will be an addition to the two custom-designed combination pumper and rescue trucks the department now uses for emergency medical calls. The commission decided on the new purchase based on complaints the current vehicles are not adequate.

John Litton, an assistant city manager and city personnel director, said the city had to act fast to get the last remaining 1986 chassis for the unit it wants.

The ambulance, which will have a diesel engine, costs \$50,669.50.

Grainger said he expects the ambulance to be delivered to the city within 45 working days.

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