

SPCFPD HUMMER

The Guffey-based Southern Park County Fire Protection District recently acquired a free military Humvee 4X4 utility vehicle through the efforts of Park County under sheriff Monte Gore, which SPCFPD firefighters Lawrence Epps and Gordon Scott picked up at Fort Carson, south of Colorado Springs, mid-June.

“It’s not quite new and needs doors and a paint job, but it should be able to go just about anywhere” said fire Chief Don Felton. Indeed, in an email Gore said it would climb Mt. Lincoln with the right driver.

Felton said that the army replaced the jeep with the Humvee and it is always in four wheel drive. Its short wheel base and low, wide profile are great for rugged terrain.

According to Wikipedia the “High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicle (HMMWV), better known as the Humvee, is a military four wheel drive vehicle created by AM General. It has largely supplanted the roles formerly served by smaller jeeps.”

According to Gore, law enforcement offices can get equipment and vehicles through a state program. Sheriff Fred Wegener told Gore to go ahead and see about



getting Humvees to equip Park County fire departments, especially this year with our wildfire predicament, with these rough, all-terrain vehicles.

Gore said he has acquired three of these free Humvees, one for the sheriff’s department SWAT team, one for Northwest fire department and one for the SPCFPD. The vehicles stay in the sheriff’s department inventory but are used by the fire department said Gore. According to Gore the list value for the SPCFPD vehicle was around \$40,000.

Gore was going to ask the other Park County fire districts if they were interested in a Humvee, so he might be getting more of them he said.

Through the state program Gore said he can also get weight and exercise equipment and has gotten some exercise and weight equipment for the Northwest fire department as well as the Jefferson/Como fire department. The only stipulation is that the sheriff’s officers can use the equipment as well. Gore stressed that it was important for firefighters and sheriff’s officers to stay fit.

Gore said he expects a rough wildfire season this year but he said all the fire and emergency departments seem to be working together quite well with mutual aid and sharing.

The SPCFPD got the two-seater pick up Humvee model and the large bed in the back will allow for a unit with a 250-300 gallon water tank and a hose reel (a semi-stiff hose wound around a metal cylinder) to be slid inside, said Felton. Also, utility boxes will be added on the side for storage, according to Felton.

Felton said he expects the Humvee to be ready in a few months and it will be a type-6 engine for use in wildfires.

