

# Norfolk Insider

City of Norfolk, NE

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## “Four-Wheel Drive Ambulance for Better Access”



Chris Lyon and Devin Pekny, both Norfolk firefighters/paramedics, load the fire division's new ambulance.

taken to Osage Industries in Linn, Missouri where it was converted to an ambulance. Total cost for the ambulance was \$200,000. It replaces a 1990 ambulance that will soon be put up for sale. The Fire Division keeps three ambulances in use with a reserve on hand.

“More and more all four ambulances are out on call all at the same time. Last year we had 2000 ambulance calls which is the largest amount of calls we've ever had,” Cordes said.

Besides being able to go through snow and up hills easier, the new ambulance is also equipped with a lift assist that uses a hydraulic lift system to get the patient's cot into the back of the ambulance.

“Using the hydraulic lift is safer for the patient especially when there's snow and ice to contend with. We don't always have firm ground at the back of the unit,” Cordes said.

The new ambulance also has a stronger suspension system using liquid hydraulic springs to provide for a more stable ride. Updated LED lighting on the ambulance gives off a more brilliant and efficient light.

The paramedics are also able to transmit patient data while enroute to the hospital.

“A 12 lead EKG machine gives 12 different looks at the heart. It sends that information to our phones via blue tooth which we can then send to a website that the hospital staff accesses. By the time the patient gets to the hospital, staff there have an idea of what they'll be working with and have time to call in a specialty team if needed,” Cordes said.

This month's 14 inches of snow was an inconvenience for many but a safety issue for the Norfolk Fire Division. Fortunately the addition of a new four-wheel drive ambulance made going through the snow to rescue calls a bit easier.

“There are times when an ambulance has to get to a location that might not be easily accessible either because of weather conditions or rough terrain.

This four-wheel drive ambulance increases our capability of getting to a patient in all conditions,” said Scott Cordes, City of Norfolk Fire Chief.

The 2016 Ford 450 diesel chassis was purchased in Norfolk last fall and then