

# Airport fulfills first Momentum 2020 project

*A mini-truck has been purchased to aid with maintenance and emergencies*

**BY EMILY ROTH**

SENTINEL NEWS STAFF

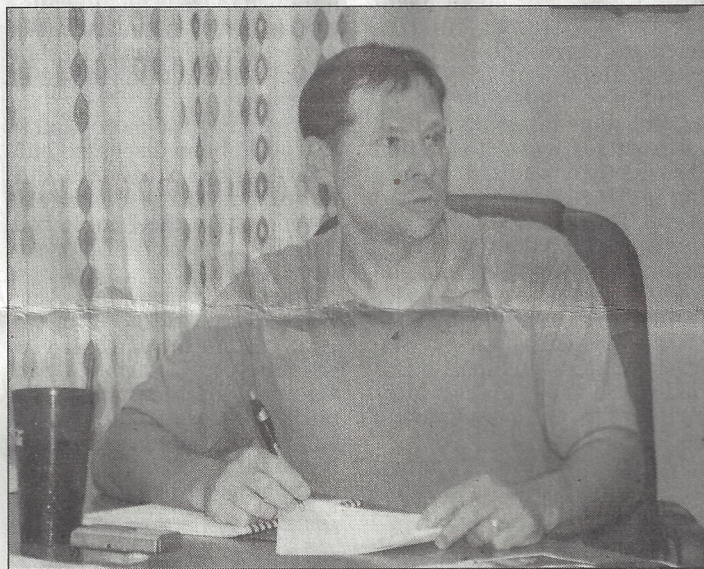
MT. VERNON — The first goal of the Mt. Vernon Outland Airport's capital development plan Momentum 2020 is complete: the purchase of a mini-truck to help with travel across the grounds.

Momentum 2020 will implement FAA (Federal Aviation Administration) mandated projects, increase needed aircraft storage capacity, and further the revitalization of airport areas that will be needed for future economic development. Momentum 2020 is funded through general obligation bonds, airport improvement program entitlements and possible FAA discretionary grants. The plan originally called for the acquisition of an ATV for weed and wildlife control.

"This one was one of the first up in the Momentum 2020 Capital Projects Plan," informed Airport Director Chris Collins on Friday. "We had \$5,000 budgeted for a used ATV. Several months ago one of our tenants here at the airport that helps us with mowing and snow removal asked me if I'd ever looked at one of these Japanese mini-trucks."

After performing some research, Collins discovered that the vehicle was a small truck with two seats in the front, a truck bed in the back, and the ability to travel at 60 miles per hour. It also possesses heating and air conditioning and four wheel drive.

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Sentinel File Photo

**COMPLETE GOAL** — Mt. Vernon Outland Airport Director Chris Collins said last week that the first stage of Momentum 2020 has been accomplished with the purchase of a mini truck. The mini truck is built like a compact version of a pickup truck and can reach speeds of 60 miles per hour.

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"It's very, very handy," he said of the mini-truck. "The reason they're not popular in the United States is because they can't be licensed on the road. Large farms, coal mines, places like that use these. They can haul a lot of weight. The more we took a look at it, the more this made sense because you can get somewhere fast in this for our wildlife patrols or if we're responding to a problem at the airport. Instead of being held to a speed that an ATV would run, plus in an ATV you're sitting out in the open and in this one you're inside. It becomes a useful tool for the airport."

The mini-truck was purchased from an individual in Salem in addition to a spray tank and a spray pump for \$5,550. Collins indicated that for now the primary function of the mini-truck

would be to help spray weeds.

The airport is also continuing its Kozaria Terminal Door Project, renovating a door and surrounding area inside the terminal.

"This is the door leading to the flightline in the old baggage claim area that is grossly deficient," explained Collins. "[The Board of Commissioners] voted to contract with the Record Door Company, that's the same company that did the slider doors on the parking lot side. And that cost is \$6,000 plus we're going to have an additional \$500 in tile work to replace the tile. It's actually not a replacement, there are those weight bearing mat sensors on either side of the door, and on the inside part there'll have to be maybe a three foot by four foot section of tile added on to what we have there additionally."

The demolition work will be done by airport maintenance staff and recently retired Commissioner Greg Martin.

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