

Airport and city work on ARFF project

Potholes and drainage issues have become a concern

BY JOSH JONES

SENTINEL NEWS STAFF

MOUNT VERNON — Recently the Mount Vernon Airport Authority Board of Commissioners approved moving forward with an overlay project for the Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting (ARFF) Station/Fire Station Three.

Airport Director Chris Collins said that they approved a bid of \$6,739 from Jax Asphalt on a two inch asphalt overlay and explained the situation at the station.

"That area is badly deteriorated, the fire trucks are driving through potholes trying to get out to the street, so it was time to repair that," Collins said.

The airport also received a second bid from E.T. Simonds in the amount of \$8,438.

Collins said that they are also working with the City of Mount Vernon with putting a new culvert in at the station.

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"The culvert that is underneath the asphalt entry is deteriorated, crushed and no water can get through it. The city tried to water blast through it a couple of months ago and could not get through it," Collins said. "Back in the spring we had ponding on the uphill side."

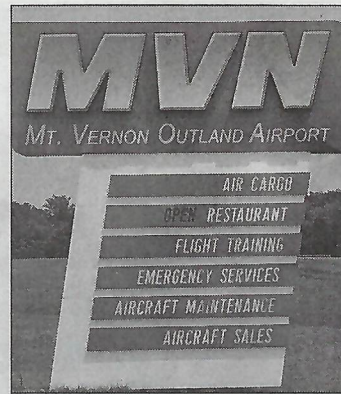
The culvert is estimated to cost \$750.

Mount Vernon Fire Chief Kevin Sargent said that the roads and culvert were both overdue.

"What happened is it had asphalt in front of it, but with all the water leaks and with the culvert being plugged up, the drainage and the water in that area, it just deteriorated it," Sargent said. "When we try to pull a fire truck out it would just sink. So they are going to repair it and get it back to where it needs to be."

Collins said that he is excited to work with the fire department and the city for this project and explained that they have been working together in recent history with improvements to the station itself.

"About five years ago the firefighters came to me and they wanted to essentially rehabilitate the fire station. We forged an agreement that the airport would put a new roof on the station and then the firefighters would take care of rehabilitating the interior



Sentinel File Photo

OVERLAY APPROVED — The Mount Vernon Airport Authority Board of Commissioners approved moving forward with an asphalt overlay project at Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting (ARFF) Station/Fire Station Three.

of the station," Collins said.

"The new roof went on about three years ago and the firefighters started with their work probably about a year and half ago and they have

just made some incredible improvements to the inside of that fire station."

Sargent said that he believes the road work is the last major thing to address at that particular station.

"This should be the last

major work to be done at the station," Sargent said. "It has been several years in the process, but we can see the light at the end of tunnel."

Collins emphasized the significance of this project. He said as the son of a first responder it is a source of pride for him to be able to work with first responders.

"The relationship we have with the city and the fire department with our station dates back to the early 1970s when that station was constructed," Collins said. "They are the front line of defense for the citizens everywhere east of the railroad tracks and so therefore the station carries a lot of weight in my eyes."

Sargent said that it has been a long-term agreement with the Mount Vernon Airport Authority and the City of Mount Vernon, with the airport

authority maintaining the property and the fire department responding out of that station.

"We have a great a working relationship with Airport

Manager Chris Collins and we will continue to have that relationship for many years to come," Sargent said.

Collins said that the hope is have the project completed by the end of the summer.

jjones@morningsentinel.com

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Chris Collins



Kevin Sargent