

Mount Vernon Airport hears update on ARFF truck

The entire process of bidding for a truck takes approximately three years from bidding to delivery

BY JOSH JONES

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MOUNT VERNON — The Mount Vernon Airport Authority Board of Commissioners heard an update regarding procuring a new Air Rescue Fire Fighting (ARFF) truck during its July board meeting.

According to Sentinel archives, the ARFF truck has been a top priority for the airport since the end of 2021. The entire process of bidding for a truck takes approximately three years, from bid to delivery, with the current ARFF truck having

been in operation since 2005/2006.

Airport Director Chris Collins said that the Mount Vernon Airport Authority has a pre-construction meeting set with the Illinois Department of Transportation on July 18.

“The main purpose of that is to set a process for paying for the new truck, because at the moment the program letter is written for around \$470,000 and the truck is going to be somewhere north of that,” Collins said. “So we are going to have to use an additional year of our Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funds. IDOT is going to tell us in this meeting the best way to go about doing this.”

Collins said that the rules for the funds are written in a way to where the airport can use multiple years of this funding source.

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“But we need a document that is specified to the fire truck and this airport,” Collins said. “In the meantime I have been working with the Mount Vernon firefighters to try and identify what we want to put on the truck. The FAA has the spec for the Air Rescue Firefighting side, but then when you have local needs and desires, we will be paying for those things, but we want to identify how best to equip this truck to protect this community for the next 20 years. I am excited about it and the Mount Vernon Fire Department is excited about it and this will be a tremendous asset for this county when it is delivered.”



Chris Collins



Sentinel File Photo

ARFF TRUCK — The Mount Vernon Airport Authority Board of Commissioners heard an update regarding procuring a new Air Rescue Fire Fighting (ARFF) truck during its July board meeting.

Collins said the hope is to have the truck delivered sometime in 2025. The results of the IDOT meeting are expected to be discussed at the August Mount Vernon Airport Authority meeting.

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