



# PRESS RELEASE

## For Immediate Release:

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## **WINTER PARK POLICE USE DRUG MONEY AND PRISONERS TO REFURBISH FIRE AMBULANCE INTO NEW POLICE VEHICLE**

**WINTER PARK, Fla. a nationally recognized Crown Community and City Spirit Award winner** (September 12, 2006) – The Winter Park Police Department (WPPD) is continually looking for ways to save city taxpayers money while keeping safety in mind. Just this month, WPPD has saved city taxpayers approximately \$150,000 by using drug forfeiture funds and prison labor to convert a surplus fire ambulance into a new Hostage Negotiation/Mobile Command/Emergency Vehicle.



**Before**



**After**

In February 2006, the Winter Park Fire-Rescue Department unveiled its new ambulance that was redesigned to make patient transport safer for the paramedic and patient. The old ambulance was then transferred to the police department.

At a cost of only \$40,000 which was paid for by drug forfeiture funds, this vehicle was completely refurbished. It was stripped of its interior and rebuilt to include a completely redesigned and updated interior with radios, telephones, generator, air conditioning, and computers. This multipurpose vehicle allows the department to respond to a variety of crisis incidents including hostage negotiation, large crime scenes, large events, and weather-related emergencies.

To purchase this vehicle brand new, it would have cost taxpayers approximately \$150,000, but WPPD used prisoners incarcerated in State of Florida correctional institutions as the labor to refurbish the vehicle, therefore saving even more taxpayer dollars.

Bruce Hall, Industry Manager of Prison Rehabilitated Industries and Diversified Enterprises (PRIDE), in Tomoka, Fla., said, "Our PRIDE program teaches prisoners a trade that they can use upon release. Typically our inmates work on vehicles that require complex systems, so we were happy to help Winter Park with this vehicle conversion. Our inmates are here because they did something bad, so when we have the opportunity do something good for the community, we take advantage of that."

The completion of this project has increased WPPD's capability and enhanced services, all at no cost to the taxpayers of the City of Winter Park.

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