

New 4-Wheel Drive Ambulance Features Latest Technology



Somers Fire & Rescue Chief Carson Wilkinson

Introduces Community to New Ambulance Delivered February 2017

The new Superline Type I ambulance is expected to serve the Somers community for the next fifteen years. Built by LifeLine, an employee-owned ambulance builder headquartered in Iowa, the Superliner has many features that the 2002 Ford ambulance, recently retired, did not. Our new ambulance was purchased slightly under the \$205,000 budgeted amount. Features include:

Heavy Duty Chassis. The new Ford F450 chassis is heavy duty, featuring a pick-up truck type front end rather than a van-type front end. This is expected to reduce repairs due to the vehicle being in maximum load all the time. Additionally, the front end is easier to access when maintenance is required thereby reducing labor costs. The chassis also features a liquid ride suspension which is expected to have less maintenance than the air ride. Patients and crew have already noticed a smoother ride.

4-Wheel Drive. This is Somers first and only 4-wheel drive ambulance. Its rugged power improves safety for both the crew and patient during inclement Wisconsin weather. Somers has a substantial rural resident population and this feature can improve emergency response when called to respond on icy, stormy, muddy, or snow covered roads.

LED Lighting. Both the exterior and interior is wired with LED lighting. The lights are brighter, last longer than traditional bulbs, and they use less amperage resulting in less stress on the alternator.

Traffic Preemption. This is a system that allows the normal operation of traffic lights to be preempted. It will be used to manipulate traffic signals in the path of our ambulances on selected traffic lights in both Somers and the City of Kenosha. This feature improves public safety and response time.

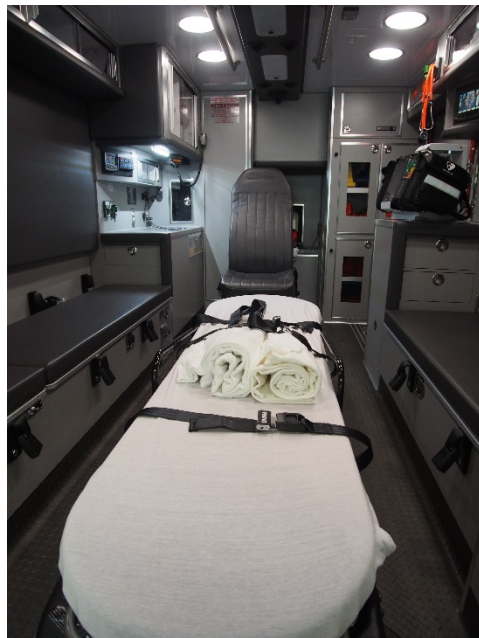
New Siren and Air Horn. A new, easier to hear siren has been added as well as an air horn which has been designed to create an extremely loud noise that warns vehicles to clear the right-of-way.

Heating and Cooling System. This new system has been improved from a single vent blowing a large volume of air to a system that has multiple vents along the length of the ceiling. This allows heated and cooled air to distribute evenly, making crew and patient more comfortable.

Video Camera. A camera records in the patient compartment. Recording in real time captures conversations and activity for training and quality assurance purposes. Additionally, it protects patients and providers from allegations of misconduct or harm.

Stretcher Relocation. The stretcher is now located in the middle of the ambulance. It allows the crew to stay seated and belted at the same time providing care to the patient.

Exterior Compartments for Gear. Two external compartments hold firefighting gear that may have been exposed to carcinogens during emergency calls. The compartments keep gear sealed and away from patient and crew to avoid cross contamination.



Interior of new Somers ambulance