



St. Germain Fire Department members include, front row from left, Jim Sherren, Wally Geist, Ben Vendal, Kevin Harvey, John Vojta and Tim Clark; back row, Marion Janssen, Lou Clark,

Jim Wendt, Jesse Chuckel, Brian Repenshek, Tiffany Ludwig, Judy Kohout, Phil Kohout, Tom Stoltman, Adam Ruenger, Troy Schalinske and Tim Gebhardt. —NEWS-REVIEW PHOTO

# St. Germain adds \$71,000 truck; will serve as rescue squad vehicle

BY ERIK BARBER  
NEWS-REVIEW INTERN

The St. Germain Fire Department purchased and received a new rescue squad vehicle in August.

According to Fire Chief Tim Clark, the 2015 three-quarter ton Chevrolet Silverado was purchased locally from Parsons.

The truck cost \$71,000 and will serve as the first responder for medical calls. The truck was funded entirely by the department's flea market and fish fry.

After purchase, the department sent the truck to Antigo to add a slide-out unit. Clark said the slide-out holds equipment and makes for easy access.

"We purchased the new truck to replace an older model," said Clark. "The old truck will likely be sold." Clark said

if the department sells the old truck, the money will be used to fund another new vehicle.

"We're looking to replace a tanker in about three years," said Clark. "Any money we get from selling the old truck will be put toward the new tanker when the time comes."

Last year, the department added a brush and water supply truck, according to Clark. The vehicle replaced a 1985 truck, and carries 2,000 feet of 4-inch supply hose. It is equipped for wildland fires and cost roughly \$125,000.

"The truck was purchased by the firefighters association," said Clark. "Money was raised through the flea market and our annual fish fry."

The local firefighters association also purchased an additional 1,000 feet of 4-inch hose for the truck.

In 2012, the St. Germain Fire Department used a \$5,000 Department of Natural Resources (DNR) matching grant to purchase a new pump and coveralls and helmets for its firefighters. The department also bought a pair of new Echo chain saws using fundraiser money.

"The saws cost us about \$1,200," said Clark. "They're used to help us with roof ventilation and can cut through just about anything."

With the pump, which cost \$800 and was funded with the DNR grant and matching money from fundraisers, the department is able to supply water more efficiently.

"That pump is for brush fires and things and we can carry it out to a remote stream, for instance, and it supplies us with water," said Clark.

The department updated its 15-year-

old imaging camera with a new model in 2011, and added two new Husqvarna Partner K 970 rescue cutter saws to its list of equipment.

The thermal-imaging camera, which cost \$11,000, was funded through fundraisers, according to Clark. He said the new unit is much quicker and can also be used in the snow for search and rescue missions. It also performs much better in fires, he said.

In the snow, the imager would show any body heat in the area with a red glow on the display. At a fire, the department also can use the thermal-imaging camera to detect dangerous hot spots.

In addition to the imager, St. Germain took delivery of two rescue saws. The new cutter saws cost about \$1,300