

Page Memorial Hospital has been awarded a \$56,000.00 grant from the Rescue Squad Assistance Fund (RSAF) to help with the purchase of a new, four wheel drive emergency transport vehicle. The RSAF is a matching funds grant program established by the Virginia Office of Emergency Services to assist non-profit EMS organizations based on demonstrated financial need.

“Currently, we have three ambulances in operation, none of which are four-wheel drive,” says Portia Brown, director of ancillary services. “Inclement weather conditions in the mountainous terrain of Page County can create dangerous driving conditions for non-four wheel drive vehicles, and calling on private transportation services because of bad weather can mean delays for patients awaiting transport.”

The new ambulance would allow the hospital to retire its oldest unit, a 1991 vehicle with over 310,000 miles of service. “In 2005, we had 347 transports and, in 2006, that number jumped to 544,” notes Brown. “Replacing the old unit with a new, four wheel drive vehicle will allow us to keep pace with the ever-increasing demands of our community.”

The accelerating demand for emergency transport creates wear and tear not only on vehicles but on advanced life support equipment as well. “Within the grant application, we requested funding for a new cardiac monitor and defibrillator,” says Brown. “And we are pleased to report that we’ve received an additional \$10,500 towards that purchase.”

“The ability to provide safe and timely emergency transport is an important part of our commitment to provide our patients with the best possible care,” says Travis Clark, CEO at Page Memorial Hospital. “The funding provided by the Rescue Squad Assistance Fund helps ensure the continued success of this essential service.”