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Spartan Motors to Donate Employee-Built Fire Truck to New York City

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Associates, Suppliers and Company Come Together To Provide New Emergency Vehicle

NEW YORK, Feb. 25 /PRNewswire/ -- It all started with a single question: How can we help?

(Photo: <http://www.newscom.com/cgi-bin/prnh/20020225/DEM012-a>)

(Photo: <http://www.newscom.com/cgi-bin/prnh/20020225/DEM012-b>)

Like the rest of America, the associates of Spartan Motors, Inc. ([NASDAQ:SPAR](http://www.nasdaq.com/SPAR)) asked that question in the days following the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on New York City and the Pentagon. Like the rest of America, they prayed, they gave blood and they wrote checks.

But that was not enough -- and so associates at the Charlotte, Mich.-based manufacturer of fire trucks, emergency vehicles and RV chassis approached CEO George Szykiel with their own offer: We want to build a fire truck for the city of New York and are willing to donate our time, on nights and weekends, until it gets done. We want you, they said, to donate the parts needed to build the truck.

So Szykiel called one of Spartan's subsidiaries, Luverne Fire Apparatus in Brandon, S.D., and proposed the idea to President Jeff Lutt -- who, coincidentally, had been thinking along the same lines. The pair agreed, and promptly enlisted the help of more than 75 suppliers, who agreed to donate the warning lights, sirens, pumps, tanks and other major components necessary to help the New York Fire Department rebuild its decimated fleet.

The pumper truck will be presented to Fire Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta and the Fire Department of New York on Monday, February 25 at 11 a.m. at 9 Metro Tech Center, Brooklyn, by a team from Spartan Motors and Luverne. It will replace one of the more than 40 trucks destroyed on Sept. 11 and will bear a plaque saying "Made in the USA." An artist has painted a firefighter's helmet in front of the twin towers of the World Trade Center on one side of the cab, and the Statue of Liberty on the other side of the cab to commemorate the city's fallen firefighters.

"As we work to help New York City with the tremendous project of rebuilding, it is incumbent on every American to do what he or she can to help," Szykiel explained. "The nature of our business puts us in a unique position to donate something that is immediately necessary and immediately useful.

"We were overwhelmed by the generous offers from our associates and our suppliers to donate both time and equipment for this incredible project. More than 500 Spartan and Luverne associates have had a hand in the design, manufacture and delivery of this custom pumper truck."

Szykiel and Lutt worked with New York's Fire Department to ensure that the truck will meet the city's needs. Since most fire trucks are custom- built, New York wanted Spartan's donated pumper to closely mirror the design of its existing fleet in order to minimize the need for retraining firefighters.

The pumper features:

- * Spartan's custom chassis with a short wheel base for greater maneuverability;
- * Luverne's signature tubular stainless steel body, built to withstand the city's rigorous response duties;
- * A 500-gallon water tank and a pump capable of delivering 1,000 gallons per minute;

- * A roomy tilt cab, which makes routine maintenance easier;
- * A low hose bed, allowing firefighters to unload equipment from the truck as quickly as possible; and
- * Luverne's new multiplex electric system, which simplifies installation and expands diagnostic capabilities.

"Our engineers and designers have worked closely with the city to come up with a design that mirrors the city's current rigs as closely as possible," Lutt explained. "We want the truck to be extremely user-friendly -- and to give New York firefighters many years of service. Reliability is designed into all of our vehicles. We build them to stay in service and on the road."

Luverne contacted more than 75 suppliers, who agreed to donate components and products to the project. In many instances, Lutt explained, he was not able to finish his request before being interrupted by an offer to help.

Ohio-based Weldon Technologies, Inc. is one such supplier who agreed to help by donating lighting and multiplex electrical components for use in fire trucks. Another supplier, W.S. Darley & Co., is donating water-pumping equipment, while Cummins Michigan Power, Inc. has agreed to donate the engine.

"As long-standing partners of Spartan Motors, we were pleased to partner with them on such a wonderful project," said Greg Boll, president of Cummins Michigan. "New York City has a definite need, and we wanted to do something to help the fire department there. I was very impressed when I heard that the Spartan associates had volunteered to donate their time to build the truck."

Lutt praised the efforts of the 70 associates at Luverne's headquarters in South Dakota. He said office workers and others who don't normally do assembly were eager to have a hand in building the truck.

"This fire truck is an absolute labor of love," Lutt said. "It is our way of reaching out to the brave firefighters in New York -- to those who lost their lives, and to those who continue to work to restore America after the tragedy."

Spartan Motors, Inc. (<https://theshyftgroup.com/>) is a leading developer and manufacturer of custom chassis for recreational vehicles, fire trucks, ambulances and other specialty vehicles. In addition to Luverne, the Company also owns fire and rescue vehicle manufacturers Quality Manufacturing and Road Rescue, Inc.

Spartan Motors and Luverne would like to thank the following suppliers for donating their products, time and money to build a fire truck for New York City (listed alphabetically by state):

Cast Products Inc.	Athens, Ala.
Horspool & Romine	Oakland, Calif.
Class One	Ocala, Fla.
Trident Supply of Ocala, Inc.	Ocala, Fla.
Pro Poly	Ocala, Fla.
Class 1	Ocala, Fla.
Champ Products, Inc.	Sarasota, Fla.
Borg Warner AF/S Instruments	Atlanta, Ga.
Vehicle Improvement Products	Antioch, Ill
Triplex Manufacturing Co.	Chicago, Ill.
Class 1	Chicago, Ill.
W.S. Darley	Chicago, Ill.
W.S. Darley	Melrose Park, Ill.
Blachford Inc.	West Chicago, Ill.
Realwheels Cover Co.	Gurnee, Ill.
Tuthill Transport Tech.	Brookston, Ind.
Paramount Plastics	Elkhart, Ind.
Elkhart Brass	Elkhart, Ind.
Acme Radiator & Air Cond.	Goshen, Ind.
Allison Transmission	Indianapolis, Ind.
Detroit Steel Products	Morristown, Ind.
Vicon Fabrication, Co.	Walkerton, Ind.
Syntek	Humboldt, IA.
Douglas Autotech Corporation	Bronson, Mich.
Callender & Dornbos, Inc.	Charlotte, Mich.

Truck Lite Co., Inc.	Detroit, Mich.
F. B. Wright Company	Grand Rapids, Mich.
DTS Fluid Power	Grandville, Mich.
Enertech	Hersey, Mich.
Road Equipment	Lansing, Mich.
Thomas Fabrication, Inc.	Mason, Mich.
A & L Systems & Controls, Inc.	Redford, Mich.
Riverside Tank & MFG. Corp.	St. Clair, Mich.
Cummins Engine Co.	Troy, Mich.
Michelin Tire Corp.	Troy, Mich.
Romar Industries	Walled Lake, Mich.
Ameristar Laser	Minneapolis, MN
Quest Engineering	Minneapolis, MN
Integriss Metals	Minneapolis, MN
Greybar	Minneapolis, MN
Fastenal	Winona, MN
ROM Corp.	Belton, Mo.
Superior Gearbox Company	Buffalo, Mo.
ROM Corp.	Kansas, Mo.
Precision Industries	Omaha, NE
Thermopol Incorporated	Somersworth, N.H.
Fire Research	Nesconset, N.Y.
Kussmaul Electronics Co.	West Sayville, N.Y.
Douglas Battery	Winston-Salem, N.C.
Industrial Steering Products	Bryan, Ohio
Designed Harness Systems	Bellefontaine, Ohio
Floyd Bell Inc.	Cincinnati, Ohio
Cleveland Ignition Company	Cleveland, Ohio
Weldon	Columbus, Ohio
Meritor Automotive, Inc.	Heath, Ohio
Taylor Made Glass Ohio Inc.	Payne, Ohio
Signature 4	Celina, Ohio
Vision Mark	Sydney, Ohio
Guardian Automotive Products	Upper Sandusky, Ohio
Uni-Grip	Upper Sandusky, Ohio
Moonlite Marine Corp.	Dubois, Pa.
Advanced Cast Products	Meadville, Pa.
Austin Hardware & Supply, Inc.	Reading, Pa.
Ziamatic Corp.	Yardley, Pa.
Auto Body Specialists	Sioux Falls, S.D.
Rainbow Sign	Sioux Falls, S.D.
Precision Industries	Sioux Falls, S.D.
Fastenal	Sioux Falls, S.D.
Dakota Sign	Sioux Falls, S.D.
Westland Manufacturing	Sioux Falls, S.D.
Greybar	Sioux Falls, S.D.
Empire Plastics	Sioux Falls, S.D.
TRW Steering Div.	Lebanon, Tenn.
Marion Body Works, Inc.	Marion, Wis.
Allegris	Milwaukee, Wis.
Unlimited Services	Oconto, Wis.
Seats, Inc.	Reedsburg, Wis.
Power Packer	Westfield, Wis.
St. Clair Technologies	Wallaceburg, Ont.

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<http://www.newscom.com/cgi-bin/prnh/20020225/DEM012-b>

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