

Shiny, new fire trucks

One each for Abbeville rural fire departments

By JUDITH LANE
Staff writer

ABBEVILLE — Ten shiny new fire trucks, each one white, each one alike, and since Saturday, each one a part of Abbeville County's 10 rural fire departments.

The trucks arrived Saturday from Pennsylvania to a welcoming at the Ingles parking lot in Abbeville. From there, the firemen took their trucks to their respective stations.

The 21 firemen had left well before dawn Thursday for Nesquehoning, Penn. to bring the trucks back the 700 miles to the county residents who will be served by them. Among those who went were two men from each volunteer fire department and Ron



RON GODFREY

Godfrey, County Fire Marshal.

"The fire commission has contracted for the trucks in a lease/purchase agreement," Godfrey said. By getting the trucks all alike, and only partially equipped,

the fire departments were able to save a great deal of money, he said.

"We cut back every way we could to save," Godfrey said. They saved \$500 per truck simply by having the trucks painted white instead of red. That's a total of \$5,000 less the taxpayers have to dish out. Another \$3,000 was saved by picking them up and another \$12,000 by leaving off the one-inch booster hoses.

The big savings came, though, simply by ordering all 10 trucks identical. That came to \$6,000 less for every truck, Godfrey said.

The Chevrolet C-70 will pump 1,000 gallons a minute and will increase the classification for each department. The higher ranking will then save homeowners in fire insurance costs, Godfrey said.

Godfrey said the firemen were excited about the new trucks. Discussion which took place on the matter at recent county council meetings displayed the feeling that county residents feel the 10-year lease/purchase investment, which will total about \$355,000, is a necessary way to help the county.



New arrivals

Twenty-one volunteers from Abbeville County's rural fire departments delivered 10 new fire trucks Saturday. By volunteering to drive the fire trucks from Pennsylvania, these men saved the taxpayers about \$6,000 on the total cost of the trucks. More than \$5,000 was saved on the trucks by ordering them white, all alike and by leaving off one-inch booster hoses. (Staff photo by Laura Hester)