



Courtesy of Life Force Rescue System

The Force 4 Rapid Responder with the ProFusion Power Takeoff System is being built and marketed by Life Force Rescue Systems of Morgantown.

# Morgantown Company Invents New Rescue Vehicle

By ALEXIS McDANIEL

For The State Journal

A Monongalia County company is launching a new light duty rescue vehicle, calling it the most intelligent, fastest and safest apparatus on the market today.

The rescue vehicle is called the Force 4 Rapid Responder and is being produced by **Life Force Rescue Systems**, a spinoff company of **L.H. Jones Equipment** in Morgantown. L.H. Jones, a family-owned business since 1946, specializes in hydraulics systems and truck equipment.

Life Force CEO Leonard “Len” Hancock Jr., described his father as a “hydraulics genius.” Their work on rescue systems began in the 1990s with the development of a heavy duty product for **Amkus Rescue Systems**.

Hancock said research conducted in more than 40 U.S. cities revealed rescue professionals wanted a more versatile truck with more safety options.

“We took that innovation to the next level,” Hancock said of the Amkus product. “Why not take that same high-powered, state-of-the-art, life-saving technology and put it in smaller, affordable rescue vehicles so more first responders can use it.”

The Force 4 Rapid Responder includes the company’s trademarked ProFusion

Power Takeoff System and is a special order, custom truck, ranging in price from \$200,000 to \$275,000. (Heavy duty versions on the market cost about twice that much.)

Every fire department is different, he explained, and will have different needs.

“We’re building the entire truck here,” Hancock said.

What makes the Force 4 superior to existing trucks, Hancock said, is the powerful hydraulic system that feeds the tools, such as spreaders or “jaws.” For example, it increases the speed that spreaders can peel apart a car door to just a few seconds.

The system also comes with a unique remote control that permits emergency workers to control tools and receive data at the scene, instead of requiring them to shout commands back and forth to another person at the truck.

“(The remote control) is the first in

the industry,” Hancock said. “There’s nothing like it in the world.”

Plus, the rescue truck features extra long hoses to support the tools away from the vehicle.

“We’ve designed a vehicle that’s good for many applications. It won’t just sit in a garage,” Hancock said.

The vehicle is designed for first responder auto accidents, natural disaster support, electricity supply and lighting, building collapse response, terrorism response and fires.

As the rescue captain for the **Monongalia Emergency Medical Services**, Mike Fortney knows that every second counts at the scene of an accident or disaster. He’s been testing the Force 4 for Life Force and is impressed with the product.

“It just tears a door off in seconds. It slices through a break pedal like a knife through butter,” Fortney said.

Fortney will be among the rescue people at the scene of a demonstration of the product Oct. 18 at a closed section of the Mon-Fayette Expressway.

Then, Hancock said his company will begin marketing the rescue vehicle to agencies throughout the nation.

For information, 1-888-291-2023 or [info@lifeforcerescue.com](mailto:info@lifeforcerescue.com).



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