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## Fire truck hit in rear



**Acting Fanning Springs Fire Chief Elania Spain explains that an accident involving the fire truck resulted from a driver not paying attention to their surroundings in the wee hours of the morning as they ran into the back of a fire truck at the scene of a fire. The fire was next to U.S. Highway 129 and it started due to a downed powerline.**

**Story and Photo By Jeff M. Hardison © July 13, 2016 @ 10:17 a.m.**

**FANNING SPRINGS** -- Acting Fanning Springs Fire Chief Elania Spain reported on Tuesday evening (July 12) that a city fire truck was hit by a vehicle and the current estimate for damages is \$15,000.

While providing her monthly report to the Fanning Springs City Council, Spain said the driver of a car failed to notice the fire truck on U.S. Highway 129 in Levy County between Chiefland and Trenton.

The accident happened on July 1 at about 3 a.m., Spain told *HardisonInk.com* after the meeting. There was one person injured -- the passenger in the car that hit the fire truck.

There were 71 calls for help from the Fanning Springs (Volunteer) Fire Rescue Department during the month of June, she said.

As for the accident, there was a powerline down in the wee hours of that morning, Chief Spain said. There were lights on for the emergency vehicles at the scene, which included another vehicle from Chiefland Fire Rescue.

"Somebody just plowed into the rear of the (fire) engine," Spain said. "Not our fault."

That driver was issued a citation for careless driving by the Florida Highway Patrol, Spain said.

The fire engine is functional and it is in use right now. During the time when it will be out of service for repairs, Spain added, the pumper truck can serve as fire engine as well.

During her report, Spain asked the City Council for its typical and traditional approval to move money in the Fire Department budget for improvements. The chief said she wants to add a winch on the front of a new brush truck and she wants to add "scene dots" and more LED lights on the back of the fire truck.

With the fiscal year ending Sept. 30, Spain said this is an annual request the department makes. The matter appeared to be resolved like it is every year, with the Fire Department being allowed to make a budget transfer within its own department.