

## 37 MPG Ford Fusion sedans replace gas guzzlers

# Frugal fire fighters

The City of Maricopa Fire Department has added four new Ford Fusions to its fleet, replacing aging large SUVs and trucks, to serve as emergency response vehicles for executive staff. The Fusions, purchased through the fleet department at Chapman Ford in Scottsdale, have been outfitted with department lettering, decals, and emergency response lights and sirens, to ensure the safety of on-scene staff when responding to emergencies. The mission of the fleet is to provide the most efficient, effective and safe vehicles for members of the department.

Almost doubling the fuel efficiency of the vehicles they replaced, the change has had a significant impact on the fleet's fuel budget. The Fusion's fuel economy is rated at 25 MPG city and 37 MPG highway. The vehicles they replaced had an average fuel economy of 14 MPG.

"We included all the members of the Resource

Management Division in the decision-making process and then underwent an extensive competitive search to find the best fit for our needs," said Fire Chief Brady Leffler. "The Ford Fusions are efficient, safe and reliable."

The Department is currently in the process of adding a new Ford Explorer with the Interceptor package to the fleet, along with a possible F-450 Fleet Support vehicle for mechanics to use for in-field repairs. The Department is also planning to add two 2015 Ford F-150s (with the high-efficiency aluminum bodies) as support vehicles for administrative work. These will be wrapped in life-safety and fire-prevention signage.

When the department was established in 1976, the first vehicle that was purchased was a Ford 1948 F-4 Fire Engine. This engine is still in the department and will soon be fully restored, as funds become available. ■



### MARICOPA FIRE DEPARTMENT

The City of Maricopa Fire Department is located approximately 18 miles south of Phoenix and covers the 45 square miles of the City of Maricopa. The department utilizes four fire stations and a full-time paid staff of 63 to provide all-hazards and Emergency Medical Service response and protection. As part of the Phoenix Regional Automatic Aid system the department helps provide coverage to the Phoenix metropolitan area and the 27 cities and towns and 4.2 million residents that includes. For more information, visit [www.maricopa-az.gov](http://www.maricopa-az.gov)



Photo: City of Maricopa Fire Department

