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Jackson County Sheriff's Department Implements Propane Hybrid Vehicles

Pendergrass, Georgia, March 4, 2009 – Jackson County Georgia Sheriff Stan E. Evans announced at a press conference on Wednesday, February 18, 2009 that the department has begun conversion of its patrol cars to a hybrid propane fuel system. The county has fully converted nine patrol cars and intends to convert an additional 16 vehicles.

In the press conference, Sheriff Evans stated that they reviewed alternative fuels such as propane (LPG) and natural gas (CNG) as a way to reduce gasoline expense. According to Sheriff Evans, "When we first started this process we considered natural gas, but learned that there were issues with performance such as acceleration and power." Sheriff Evans discussed the benefits of propane adding, "The price of propane is less than regular unleaded fuel and we receive a 50 cent per gallon rebate from the government for using alternative fuel. Jackson County was able to purchase the propane systems on seized drug funds, meaning no taxpayer money was used in the vehicle conversions."

The hybrid propane system is supplied by American Alternative Fuel of Castleton, New York. The propane conversion kit is designed so that each vehicle has two independent fuels systems. Geoffrey A. Hoffman of American Alternative Fuel explained how a hybrid propane vehicle operates, "The vehicle starts on gasoline every time, then builds temperature and switches to LPG within approximately a minute. The driver is able to run the car to empty on LPG and the vehicle will signal that it is automatically switching back to gasoline." Mr. Hoffman also stated that the time to fuel hybrid propane vehicles is substantially less than those using natural gas.

The event ended with a fueling demonstration from Georgia Gas Distributors, providers of the propane and propane pump. A Jackson County Ford Police Interceptor re-fueled at the on-site station in approximately two minutes. The fueling stations operate in the same manner as traditional gas pumps. Each vehicle has a separate propane fuel cap for filling the propane tank.

Force 911 provides installation of hybrid propane fuel systems and will work with Jackson County on additional vehicles that will be outfitted with the propane system.

The press conference was attended by Jackson County Sheriff, Stan E. Evans; Jackson County Manager, Darrell Hampton; Jackson County Chairman of the Board of Commissioners, Hunter Bicknell; as well as representatives from the companies American Alternative Fuel, Georgia Gas Distributors, Force 911 and the local media.

About Force 911

Force 911 specializes in turnkey police and public service vehicles by providing outfitting for various law enforcement and government agencies. Force 911 offers equipment installation, K9 units, propane hybrid vehicle conversions, department graphics and other services. Located in Pendergrass, Georgia, Force 911 is your single point of contact from vehicle design to delivery. For more information about Force 911, please visit www.force911.com or call 678-919-7911.