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**SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**  
Washington, DC 20549

**FORM 8-K**

**CURRENT REPORT**

Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the  
Securities Exchange Act of 1934

Date of Report (Date of earliest event reported): April 8, 2002

**SPARTAN MOTORS, INC.**

(Exact name of registrant as  
specified in its charter)

**Michigan**  
(State or other jurisdiction of  
incorporation)

**0-13611**  
(Commission  
File Number)

**38-2078923**  
(IRS Employer  
Identification no.)

**1165 Reynolds Road**  
**Charlotte, Michigan**  
(Address of principal executive offices)

**48813**  
(Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number,  
including area code: **(517) 543-6400**

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Item 7. Financial Statements, Pro Forma Financial Information, and Exhibits.

(c) Exhibits: The following document is filed as an exhibit to this report on Form 8-K:

99.1 Spartan Motors, Inc. Press Release dated April 8, 2002.

Item 9. Regulation FD Disclosure.

On April 8, 2002, Spartan Motors, Inc. issued the press release attached as Exhibit 99.1 to this Form 8-K. This report and the exhibit are furnished, not filed.

**SIGNATURES**

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned thereunto duly authorized.

SPARTAN MOTORS, INC.

Date: April 8, 2002

By /s/John E. Szykiel

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John E. Szykiel  
President and Chief Operating Officer

**EXHIBIT INDEX**

Exhibit Number

Document

99.1

Spartan Motors, Inc. Press Release dated April 8, 2002.



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

CONTACT: John Szykiel, President/COO, or Rich Schalter, CFO  
Spartan Motors, Inc. (517) 543-6400  
or  
Jeff Lambert, Brian Edwards (mail@lambert-edwards.com)  
Lambert, Edwards & Associates, Inc. (616) 233-0500

**Spartan Motors Says First-Quarter Sales, Earnings Will Outpace Estimates**

CHARLOTTE, Michigan, April 8, 2002 - Spartan Motors, Inc. (Nasdaq: SPAR) today said net sales for the first quarter ended March 31, 2002 were significantly higher than analyst estimates, reflecting strong sales of its premium motorhome chassis, fire truck chassis and emergency-rescue vehicles.

The Charlotte, Mich.-based manufacturer of custom chassis and emergency-rescue vehicles said sales for the first quarter of 2002 were \$66.9 million, due largely to higher-than-anticipated sales of recreational vehicle chassis. The Company said strong order flow from motorhome manufacturers over the past five months and increased manufacturing productivity contributed to the increase in shipments during the first quarter. Spartan Motors said sales of its fire truck chassis and emergency-rescue vehicles remain strong and were in line with expectations.

"We are pleased with the strength of our first-quarter sales, particularly in the RV industry," said John Szykiel, president and chief operating officer of Spartan Motors. "Our first-quarter sales of motorhome chassis reflect the pent-up demand in the RV market that became evident in late 2001. That said, we remain cautious about labeling this a trend, as there are a variety of factors that could impact sales in the RV and emergency-rescue markets moving forward. We will continue to focus on improving operations and developing innovative new products for our core markets in order to build long-term value for Spartan Motors customers, employees, business partners and shareholders."

As a result of higher sales levels, Spartan Motors said its first-quarter earnings would be higher than analysts' estimates; however, the Company did not provide a range of estimated earnings. Spartan Motors will release its first-quarter results prior to market open on April 25.

Analysts for the two firms following Spartan Motors had estimated first-quarter sales would be between \$55.3 million and \$57.5 million. The analysts had predicted Spartan would earn between \$0.15 and \$0.16 per share.

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Spartan Motors, Inc. (www.spartanmotors.com) is a leading developer and manufacturer of custom chassis for recreational vehicles, fire trucks, ambulances and other specialty vehicles. The Company also owns fire and rescue vehicle manufacturers Luverne Fire Apparatus, Quality Manufacturing and Road Rescue, Inc.

The statements contained in this news release include certain predictions and projections that may be considered forward-looking statements by the securities laws. These statements involve a number of risks and uncertainties, including but not limited to economic, competitive, governmental and technological factors affecting the Company's operations, markets, products, services and prices, and actual results may differ materially.

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