

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Castroville VFC receives \$118,000 grant for replacement brush truck

November 14, 2016 — CASTROVILLE, Texas — Texas A&M Forest Service recently awarded a \$118,000 grant to Castroville Volunteer Fire Company for a new brush truck through the Rural Volunteer Fire Department Assistance Program.

The truck, a 2015 Ford F-550 with a compressed air foam system, is a replacement for an outdated truck.

The body of the truck was raised to accommodate 44 inch run-flat tires, while a 400 gallon water tank, 25 gallon foam tank and a winch rated for 12,000 pounds were added. The truck also features an infrared camera connected to a monitor in the cab, allowing a clear view behind the truck. This view enhances the safety for firefighters as they work behind the truck.

“The main benefit of this truck is having the compressed air foam system, because having foam capabilities doubles the effectiveness of the water,” said Castroville Volunteer Fire Company Chief Richey Lair. “The truck has a 400 gallon tank but the fire retardant foam doubles the firefighting capabilities, it’s like having 800 gallons of water. The foam coats the fuel, helping to smother the flame while cooling the fire.”

Castroville VFC, situated 19 miles west of San Antonio, serves a population of approximately 12,000 people over 130 square miles. Being so close to San Antonio, the population in the area is expected to increase significantly.

“We are considered a rural area right now, but the San Antonio population is growing west, so we expect a lot of development in the near future,” Lair said. “With that growth comes greater responsibility for the citizens and the structures that will be built. This truck adds to our capacity to meet those demands.”

Texas A&M Forest Service is committed to protecting lives and property through the Rural Volunteer Fire Department Assistance Program, a cost-share program funded by the Texas State Legislature and administered by Texas A&M Forest Service. This program provides funding to rural VFDs for acquisition of firefighting vehicles, fire and rescue equipment, protective clothing, dry-hydrants, computer systems and firefighter training.

For more information on programs offered by Texas A&M Forest Service, please visit <http://texasfd.com>

