

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 28, 2018

Kempner VFD adds new water tender to fleet

KEMPNER, Texas — The Kempner Volunteer Fire Department received a \$191,000 grant through the Texas A&M Forest Service Rural Volunteer Fire Department Assistance Program. The cost-share grant was used to purchase a 2018 Peterbuilt chassis with a 3,000-gallon water tank, 3,000-gallon drop tank and a 1,000-gallon-per-minute pump.

The tender, also known as a tanker in some regions, will help to increase the capacity of the department when responding to fires in areas where water supply is an issue.

“The newer subdivisions in our area have fire hydrants but the older subdivisions do not have a ready water source,” said Kempner VFD Fire Chief Dan Hause. “This new apparatus will allow the firefighters to have more water available for the initial-attack when fighting grass or structure fires, increasing their potential to knock a fire down quickly.”

This tender is replacing a 1997 Dodge tanker that was starting to have transmission problems and parts were hard to find. The new tanker will eliminate the need for repairs, is faster when responding and delivers much more water. It will be the second out truck on all fires in the service area and when responding to mutual aid with other fire departments.

“This new addition will allow the Kempner Volunteer Fire Department to be better equipped, ensuring greater safety for the firefighters and the community,” said Texas A&M Forest Service Regional Fire Coordinator Gabe Mahlum.

The department worked diligently, having several fund raisers, to help with the cost-share portion.

“The community has been very supportive by responding to fund raisers for this new tender and we are also grateful to Lampasas County and Texas A&M Forest Service for making the addition to our fleet possible,” said Hause.

Kempner VFD has been serving their area since 1972 and is always looking for dedicated individuals who would like to give back to the community by serving as a volunteer. Applications may be picked up at the Kempner Fire House, located at 315 Pecan Street in Kempner, Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. or by calling Fire Chief Dan Hause at (512) 525-2430.

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 Texas State Legislature and administered by Texas A&M Forest Service. This program provides funding to rural Volunteer Fire Departments for the 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>.



Frank Potter, Firefighter, Liz Demmel, Support Team Leader,
Jim Demmel, Support Team Member, Dan Hause, Fire Chief, Chris Long, VFD Lt.