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Ozona VFD updates rescue equipment with new thermal imaging camera

OZONA, Texas — The Ozona Volunteer Fire Department purchased a new thermal imaging camera thanks to a \$15,000 grant awarded by Texas A&M Forest Service through the Rural VFD Assistance Program. The camera will assist volunteers on the scene of a fire during search and rescue.

“The camera we had before was old and outdated,” Fire Chief Brian Morrow stated. “We needed the grant funding to be able to afford this new camera.”

The new camera comes with many updated features that help expedite the process of search and rescue.

“It shows temperatures and records video with a color screen compared to the old camera that used black and white and allows you to see deeper into the heat source,” Morrow said. “The throttle control can discount the heat emitted by the light bulb, so it shows only the real heat source. It also has a bullseye to help us find people and it marks escape routes more clearly.”

The camera can also detect the source of heat when someone reports a smoke odor but doesn’t see a fire, according to Morrow.

Over 85% of fire departments in the state of Texas are either completely or mostly operated by volunteers. TFS passes approximately \$12.8 million along to volunteer fire departments across the state every year, helping them purchase equipment to better protect lives and property.

To learn more about this program visit texasfd.com.

