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Bartlett Volunteer Fire Department increases safety with new rescue equipment

BARTLETT, Texas — Bartlett Volunteer Fire Department purchased new rescue equipment with a \$16,600 grant through Texas A&M Forest Service’s Rural Volunteer Fire Department Assistance Program. The primary mission for the new equipment is stabilization and extrication after a vehicle collision.

“Most vehicle accidents in our area are on country roads and sometimes include rescuing cattle as well as the driver,” said Chief Steven Wentrcek. “The new air bags will lift a vehicle, even an 18-wheeler. The struts will help keep the vehicle stabilized and everyone safe while we use the extrication tools for rescue.”

Bartlett VFD was established in 1915. The department’s strong commitment to the community is shown by continuing education and equipment improvements. Wentrcek said that the department seeks opportunities to train its volunteers and better serve their community. As the result of a Texas A&M Forest Service training grant, seven volunteers will attend a big rig extrication class where they will learn more about the new advanced tools.

“We appreciate the grant programs being available for equipment and training. The cost share portion for the equipment purchase was available thanks to community support at our annual fund raiser,” said Wentrcek.

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>.

