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Bartlett Volunteer Fire Department increases firefighting capacity with new apparatus

BARTLETT, Texas — Bartlett Volunteer Fire Department accepted a cost share grant to help replace an older slip-on unit. The grant was through the Rural Volunteer Fire Department Assistance Program administered by Texas A&M Forest Service.

“We appreciate the new slip-on unit that will be used to fight grass, hay and wildland fires in our immediate rural area and during mutual aid calls that extends to parts of three counties,” said Bartlett VFD Senior Captain Scott Mason. “The unit has foam capability and a 340-gallon water tank that increases the amount of water that we are able to take when we get a rural call.”

According to Mason the urban area does not have fire hydrants so they are pleased to have the foam capability that makes the water “wetter” increasing the ability of the water to extinguish a fire.

“Bartlett VFD covers a 105-square-mile service area,” said Matthew Schlaefer Texas A&M Forest Service Regional Fire Coordinator. “This new slip-on unit will be a great asset, especially now that we are entering the winter fire season.”

Having easy access to the gauges and controls for the slip-on unit can help the firefighters have better situation awareness.

“Safety is a priority for our department so we reconfigured this brush truck so the controls and water gauge for the slip-on unit are in the cab,” said Mason. “It is vital to know exactly where you stand with the remaining water supply when fighting a fire.”

To make the purchase possible, the department combined the cost share grant and a grant of matching funds from the Bell County Commissioners.

Bartlett VFD has been serving their community since 1915. Fire Chief Steven Wentreck and volunteers continue to offer cutting-edge emergency services through up-to-date equipment and advanced training.

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>.

