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Bloomington VFD adds new water tender to fleet

BLOOMINGTON, Texas - Bloomington Volunteer Fire Department added a new 2016 tender to their fleet thanks to a grant received from Texas A&M Forest Service's Rural Volunteer Fire Department Assistance Program.

"We have three brush trucks and a rescue truck, but this new tender will be especially helpful when responding to grass and structure fires," said Bloomington VFD Fire Chief Joe Garrison.

According to Chief Garrison, "The biggest asset is the volume of water it carries. Although we have an FEPP military 2.5 ton that carries 800 gallons of water, the new tender carries 2,000 gallons of water, which is valuable when we are holding our own on a fire or awaiting mutual aid."

Bloomington VFD services a 36 square mile area with a population of about 3,600. Though the majority of calls in their area are for wildfires, they also serve mutual aid to some chemical plants.

"They have continued to improve their service to the area through the acquisition of equipment and recruitment of volunteers to meet the needs of their community," said TFS Assistant Chief Regional Fire Coordinator Jimmy Mullis.

Volunteer fire departments operate 85 percent of the fire departments in Texas. This year TFS will pass approximately \$24.3 million along to VFDs across the state. The grant funding will aid them in purchasing equipment and obtaining vital firefighter training, giving them greater capabilities to protect life and property in their communities.

"Our potential to help the people of our community and surrounding area would not be as great without the help we receive from TFS. Many of the volunteer fire departments would not be able to afford trucks, equipment and training. It is nice to have peace of mind knowing that our department has the right equipment to help our community as well as maintain the safety of our volunteers," said Chief Garrison.

To learn more about this program visit www.texasfd.com

