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Henrietta Volunteer Fire Department receives \$15,900 grant

HENRIETTA, Texas - Henrietta Volunteer Fire Department recently received a grant from Texas A&M Forest Service to help purchase a new slip-on unit.

“This slip-on unit is equipped with a larger tank and an improved pump which allows for increased volume and pressure, enabling us to control and extinguish fires faster,” Henrietta VFD Fire Chief Mike Roberts. “It is on a duce and a half truck that will be first out on all our grass fires. I believe it will serve us well.”

The historic town of Henrietta is surrounded by topography that can prove to be difficult terrain for equipment and firefighters.

“Once you get out of our city limits we have ranch and farm land and areas that are really a challenge, to the north of us, it is rocky, flat ground with oak and mesquite trees.” said Roberts. “South of town are ravines, creeks and rivers. The truck with this slip-on unit will be able to maneuver the terrain and carry the water needed for any possible fires.”

According to Fire Chief Roberts, the slip-on unit will be a great benefit to the department during the Fourth of July holiday, which is their most challenging time of year.

“We decided to help curb the fire potential by doing a burn off in a certain area and then invited the community to come and set off their fireworks on the prepared ground. Since the celebration is confined to one place, our need to respond to small fires has been cut dramatically,” said Roberts.

Having the slip-on unit will give them the needed advantage to respond to additional calls.

Volunteer firefighters 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 aids them in purchasing equipment and obtaining vital firefighter training, giving them greater capabilities to protect life and property in their communities.

“Many volunteer fire departments do not receive large amounts of funding. The grants from TFS are critical to them for equipment to help protect their communities. This new slip-on unit we received will help us to save a lot of time and maybe a life,” states Roberts.

To learn more about this program visit texasfd.com

