

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### La Rosita VFD increases capacity with \$10,437 grant

**July 20, 2016 — RIO GRANDE CITY, Texas** — La Rosita Volunteer Fire Department recently purchased new rescue equipment thanks to a \$10,437 grant through Texas A&M Forest Service's Rural Volunteer Fire Department Assistance Program.

The department purchased both new and replacement items with their grant.

“The self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) tanks that we acquired are replacing ones that are expiring this month,” said La Rosita VFD Chief Jorge Oyervides. “The new tanks are lighter and safer. Firefighters can use them for longer periods instead of taking them off and being exposed to the dangerous environments we deal with.”

In addition to the breathing apparatus, the department also purchased a combination cutter and spreader extrication tool.

“The Holmatro extrication combination tool is a new addition to the station and will allow us to do extrication without having to rely on mutual aid, which can take an additional 10 to 15 minutes to arrive,” explained Chief Oyervides. “It allows us to be more independent and to complete our operations faster without any delay to the victim.”

Chief Oyervides is appreciative of Texas A&M Forest Service programs that assist rural VFDs, especially when fund raising can be difficult. “I want to thank Texas A&M Forest Service for the outstanding job that they do in assisting and helping small departments with the programs they have. When we started in this department we had limited equipment and through the Rural VFD grant we have slowly built this fire station up.”

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 the Texas State Legislature and administered by Texas A&M Forest Service. This program provides funding to rural VFDs for the acquisition of firefighting vehicles, fire and rescue equipment, protective clothing, dry-hydrants, computer systems and firefighter training.

To learn more about this and other programs offered by Texas A&M Forest Service, visit <http://texasfd.com>.

