

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 18, 2017

Slaton VFD receives \$12,900 grant to update rescue equipment

April 18, 2017 — Slaton, Texas — Slaton Volunteer Fire Department received a rescue equipment grant through the Texas A&M Forest Service's Rural Volunteer Department Assistance Program. The funds were used to replace a 30-year-old Jaws-of-Life and purchase a Ram.

The term "Jaws of Life" refers to several types of hydraulic tools, which are used to pry open vehicles involved in accidents when a victim is trapped or other rescues from confining or small spaces.

"Our department appreciates having an updated Jaws-of-Life and a Ram," said Slaton VFD Fire Chief Ethan Johnston. "The old Jaws was working but we thought it was becoming more unreliable and we had to improvise when we needed a Ram. With the addition of the new equipment our job will be made easier, safer and more efficient."

The VFD serves 8,000 citizens in their protection area plus any travelers that may need assistance on the busy U.S. Highway 84.

"The volunteers had special training in the extrication process and have put the tools into service," said Johnston. "Forcible entry is sometimes needed during a time when every second counts. We are prepared should that type of emergency arise."

The town of Slaton was founded in 1911 and 8 years later the dedicated community members formed the Slaton Volunteer Fire Department. The VFD has advanced over the years through training and developments in the fire service with 25 devoted volunteers engaged in keeping their 101-square-mile service area safe. Anyone wanting to commit time and train in firefighting may pick up an application at the fire station, 200 South 8th Street, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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 VFDs 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>.

