

May 22, 2014

New thermal camera brings better rescue capabilities

ERATH COUNTY, Texas – With the help of a \$14,000 cost-share grant provided by Texas A&M Forest Service, Erath County Volunteer Fire Rescue purchased its first thermal imaging camera.

“This camera will be used for search and rescue to detect body heat and on fires if you are steamed out and can’t see the flames, it can detect unsafe conditions,” said Chris Brooks, Erath County VFR fire coordinator. “Having this camera will greatly increase our ability to efficiently respond to emergencies.” “I think this grant is amazing,” said Brooks. “It is really mind blowing what we can apply for to help us become a better department.”

The Erath VFR award is among the \$12.8 million passed through TFS to Texas volunteer fire departments each year.

These grants are important because VFDs respond to 90 percent of wildfires in Texas, and do it with little to no money and a staff made up primarily of volunteers.

“This program really helps everyone. It saves the department and tax payer’s money by reducing out of pocket expenditures,” said Keith Vaughn, TFS resource specialist. “I think this grant is one to the best things that has happened to departments in Texas and I’m glad we’ve been able to offer this assistance for so many years.”

To learn more about this program visit texasfd.com.

PHOTO: Pictured from left to right, Russell Behlings, TFS regional fire coordinator; Tommy Shelton, Erath Co. VFR representative; and Chris Brooks Erath Co. VFR, fire coordinator.

