

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Bowman Community Volunteer Fire Department bolsters fire suppression capabilities**

WICHITA FALLS, Texas – Bowman Community Volunteer Fire Department received a \$220,000 cost share grant to help purchase a 2021 Kenworth water tender with updates that will revolutionize and strengthen their firefighting fleet.

“This tender is replacing two apparatus in the department’s fleet, a 1995 tender that also had a 3,000-gallon water tank but no drop tank and an engine that was our first out truck, but the engine was damaged in the February freeze and is not in service,” said Bowman Community VFD Fire Chief Jesse Pope. “We are pleased to have this tender that will fill several roles for our department.”

The department members designed the tender to work independently.

“The increased storage for rescue tools, SCBA compartments, 1,000 feet of large diameter hose, 1,000 gallons-per-minute water pump and 3000-gallon drop tank help make this truck a versatile addition to our fleet,” said Pope. “It not only will be used as a tender but also in response to structure, wildland and vehicle fires. It will be our first out apparatus whether in our immediate response area or in mutual aid.”

The tender can continually supply water at a fire scene by transporting water and releasing it into a portable drop tank that is easily set up in moments.

“The new tender with its large water capacity will be very beneficial to the department by increasing their capabilities in fire suppression in their community and surrounding area,” said Texas A&M Forest Service Regional Fire Coordinator Regan Reser.

Bowman Community VFD appreciates continued community support that not only contributes to daily department demands but helped with the cost share portion needed to purchase this tender.

The updated apparatus required special training.

“Our firefighters had hands on training on the operation and procedures for the new tender, enabling them to respond to calls safely, quickly and effectively.”

Texas A&M Forest Service is committed to protecting lives, property and natural resources 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 Volunteer Fire Departments 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>.

