

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 19, 2017

Groesbeck VFD receives \$20,000 grant and converts steel soldier into a versatile machine

April 19, 2017 — GROESBECK, Texas — Groesbeck Volunteer Fire Department received a \$20,000 grant through the Rural Volunteer Fire Department Assistance Program and a surplus military vehicle through the Department of Defense Firefighter Property Program, overseen by the USDA Forest Service, both programs are administered by Texas A&M Forest Service.

Launched in Texas in 2005, the DoD FFP program has released over 400 retired military trucks to VFDs across the state to help them better protect lives and property. Texas A&M Forest Service transports the vehicle from a military installation, performs necessary repairs and delivers it to the volunteer fire department at no cost to them.

The grant provided the department funding for a slip-on unit which gave the 2.5-ton Stewart Stevenson a new life as a multipurpose firefighting machine.

A slip-on unit is an apparatus built to meet the demands of the fire service and easily mounted in the back of a pickup or a custom built platform and is especially effective in fighting wildland fires, off-road grass fires, car fires and many others.

“The military vehicle will give our department a truck that can be dual-functional,” said Groesbeck VFD Firefighter Brandon McCoy. “We will use it as a brush truck for wildland fires, high-water or medical rescues and structure fires. It is a lighter truck that will be able to get into rural areas where we might be concerned about getting bogged down when using our other truck.”

The department painted the truck a non-military color, added the slip-on unit, a safety cage behind the cab, lights and a siren.

The VFD has been serving their community since 1891. The department’s 25 volunteers are committed to being the first line of defense for the 232 square mile protection area, plus respond to mutual aid calls when needed. Anyone who would like to apply as a volunteer may do so by coming by the fire department at 402 Navasota Street and pick up an application.

Texas A&M Forest Service is committed to protecting lives and property through its various fire department assistance programs. For more information on programs offered by Texas A&M Forest Service, please visit <http://texasfd.com>.

