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New truck for Ben Bolt VFD will increase firefighting efficiency

BEN BOLT, Texas — Texas A&M Forest Service awarded Ben Bolt Volunteer Fire Department a \$200,000 grant to help purchase a new brush truck to add to their fleet.

Ben Bolt Fire Chief Patrick Thomas said the new brush truck will fill a void they were experiencing within their fleet.

“This large brush truck will increase our capability to fight wildland fires, but it also has extra compartments for rescue equipment,” Thomas said. “We are right on a major highway and get a lot of rescue calls. We needed a vehicle that could get into tight spaces and rural terrain.”

The new truck also brings the department foam capabilities previously unavailable to the VFD. Foam helps the water supply work more efficiently by allowing water to penetrate more deeply into fuels, aiding in extinguishing the fire. It also helps slow down and stop the combustion process.

The VFD serves approximately 143 square miles of territory and offers mutual aid to an additional 200 square miles.

“Volunteer fire departments rely on all the TFS programs to operate,” Thomas said. “TFS plays an important role in helping to keep equipment up to date.”

Over 85 percent of fire departments in the state of Texas are either completely or mostly operated by volunteers. TFS passes approximately \$12.8 million along to volunteer fire departments across the state every year, helping them purchase equipment to better protect lives and property.

To learn more about this program visit texasfd.com.



Big Check photo courtesy of, Melissa Trevino, Alice Echo

Pictured left to right: Commissioner Precinct 2 Ventura Garcia Jr, Texas A&M Forest Services Craig Olson, County Judge Pete Trevino, Marissa Yvette Uteley, Fire Chief Patrick Thomas, Matthew Henderson