MEYERSVILLE, Texas - Texas A&M Forest Service recently awarded a grant to the Meyersville Volunteer Fire Department for just over $96,000 to purchase a new small brush truck.

Previously the department operated using two old trucks from the 1980s. According to Meyersville Fire Chief Robert Moore, the old trucks were still workable, but it was time for an upgrade.

“The new truck supplies us with more water and allows us to have quicker response time,” Moore said. “It has a lot of new, nice features that our older trucks don’t have.”

The Texas A&M Forest Service 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.

“We were able to purchase our first truck back in 1981 with help from TFS also,” Moore said. “This program makes it very affordable for VFDs to purchase new trucks and equipment.”

Regional Fire Coordinator Jared Karns said the VFD was excited and extremely grateful for the help from TFS.

“This department had very few trucks, so this was a huge deal for them,” Karns said. “The equipment they were working with before was not something they could use on a consistent basis because it would often break down. Having something that is reliable will be a great asset to them.”

Photo: From left to right, Brian Haun, Dautin Jacob, Cliff Jacob, Bruce Ghomert (Chief), Jared Karns, Robert Moore, Brian Wendell.