

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Dec. 14, 2015

### Apple Springs VFD adds military vehicle to fleet

**CROSBYTON, Texas** – Apple Springs Volunteer Fire Department accepted a military vehicle from Texas A&M Forest Service’s DoD Firefighter Property Program. The vehicle be a versatile piece of equipment and will increase their capabilities to protect life and property in their community.

“This converted military truck will add another aspect to our recue program as a high water rescue vehicle,” said Apple Springs Fire Department President Gary Mathison. “It will easily be able to go through 2 – 3 feet of water.”

When a fire department is the recipient of a federal government vehicle, they must meet certain obligations within the first 180 days of acquisition. The vehicle must be painted a non-military color and be converted into an emergency response vehicle able to perform an emergency response function.

“We did some miscellaneous mechanical work and routine maintenance, and also added a 3,000 gallon skid unit that came off our old brush truck and will be adding emergency lighting,” said Mathison.

Military vehicles can be configured for service according to the needs of the fire department.

“We will use this truck as a medical rescue unit as well as a firefighting machine,” said Mathison. “Most of our residents live on dirt roads and during inclement weather an ambulance cannot travel those roads for emergency response. We will pick up the patient and carry them to the awaiting ambulance where they will be transported to a medical facility.”

Volunteer firefighters operate 85 percent of the fire departments in Texas. This year TFS will pass approximately \$24.3 million along to VFDs across the state. The grants aid them in purchasing equipment and obtaining vital firefighter training, giving them greater capabilities to protect life and property in their communities.

Apple Springs VFD has been serving their community and surrounding area since 1972. Their current roster has 22 volunteers but they are always looking for dedicated individuals who are willing and ready to train in firefighting techniques.

To learn more about this program visit [texasfd.com](http://texasfd.com)

