

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Matagorda Volunteer Fire Department's new lightweight apparatus is designed for local terrain

MATAGORDA, Texas – Matagorda Volunteer Fire Department received a cost share grant through the Rural Volunteer Fire Department Assistance Program to help purchase a 2020 Ram 3500 truck chassis. Local support from the community and County Commissioner, Kent Pollard, helped them meet their cost share portion and add a slip-on unit to the chassis, completing the build-out of the truck.

Matagorda VFD's 130-square-mile protection area comprises of grassland, farms and ranches and low-lying, muddy terrain.

“We intentionally built this new brush truck lighter, giving us greater operational flexibility,” said Matagorda VFD Fire Chief Clay Bishop. “We kept it basic with a 250-gallon water tank and a 10-gallon foam tank that will help us meet the fire service needs of our community and surrounding area.”

The brush truck performed well when recently used to respond to several fires, one being a 142-acre fire that encroached onto port authority land.

“Our department gets a lot of calls that started out as burn piles,” said Bishop. “Our call volume increases in the summer when our population increases from 1,100 to 5,000 when people start visiting Matagorda Beach. We encourage people to practice safe burns especially since we had the Winter Storm Uri that left the vegetation in our area very dry.”

Matagorda Volunteer Fire Department has been serving their community since 1948 and continuously strives to improve fire service. The department has two fund raisers each year, one on Memorial Weekend and the other in October. The proceeds help with daily operations and departmental upgrades.

Texas A&M Forest Service is committed to protecting lives and property 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>.

