

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 8, 2016

Petrolia VFD updates fleet with \$20,000 grant

August 8, 2016 — PETROLIA, Texas — Petrolia Volunteer Fire Department recently added a new slip-on unit to one of their existing wildland fire-fighting trucks. Acquisition of the unit was made possible through a \$20,000 Rural Volunteer Fire Department Assistance grant, administered by Texas A&M Forest Service.

A slip-on unit is designed to enhance a fire department's firefighting capabilities. The apparatus is built for the rigors of the fire service and is easily mounted in the back of a pick-up truck or a custom-built bed and is especially effective in handling wildland fires, car fires and others.

"This new slip-on unit is replacing a 1,000-gallon metal tank that was leaking," Petrolia VFD Assistant Chief Tony Fox said. "This new unit is also a 1,000-gallon, but it is a poly-tank so it is lighter and will require less maintenance than the metal tank."

The slip-on unit also has a Compressed Air Foam System with a 20-gallon tank.

"We received a five-ton truck through Texas A&M Forest Service's Federal Firefighter Property Program a couple of years ago and we are mounting the new slip-on unit on that truck," explained Fox.

"We are a rural county and we cover 77-square miles as well as provide mutual aid for half of the county," Fox said. "The terrain in the north part of our area has a lot of mesquite and brush. This five-ton with the slip-on will be very beneficial in getting us into those types of areas."

Chief Fox said the department intends to use the unit primarily for wildland type fires, such as a recent 50-acre hayfield fire.

"This truck helps us to better protect our community by getting a larger water supply out to where the fires are," Fox said.

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 the Texas State Legislature and administered by Texas A&M Forest Service. This program provides funding to rural VFDs 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>.

