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Dodd City VFD receives grant, increases department capabilities

July 1, 2016 – DODD CITY, Texas – Dodd City Volunteer Fire Department has enhanced its fire service capabilities with the help of a \$19,840 grant administered by Texas A&M Forest Service.

The grant went toward purchasing a slip-on unit for a recently acquired truck.

“The TFS grant covered the slip-on unit and our department funds covered the truck,” Dodd City VFD Chief Charlie Howell said.

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

“The slip-on has a 250-gallon water tank, a 5 gallon foam cell with a 23 horsepower pump,” Howell said.

According to Chief Howell, Dodd City’s response area is 85 square miles of rural farming and ranching lands which produce crops such as hay, corn and wheat that can be combustible and prone to fires.

The new truck and slip-on will be used as a first response vehicle. “It will be able to get out to the fire and begin suppression while the rest of the crew is bringing the heavier equipment. This is the only unit that we have that has the foam capabilities,” Howell said.

The firefighting foam is used for fire suppression. Its role is to cool the fire and coat the fuel, helping to control fuel combustion.

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.

To learn more about this and other programs offered by Texas A&M Forest Service, visit <http://texasfd.com>.

