

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**September 13, 2016**

**Falfurrias VFD uses \$16,560 grant to increase firefighting capacity**

**September 13, 2016 — FALFURRIAS, Texas** — Falfurrias Volunteer Fire Department has enhanced its fire service capabilities with the help of a \$16,560 grant administered through the Texas A&M Forest Service Rural Volunteer Fire Department Assistance Program.

The grant went toward purchasing a new slip-on unit to replace an older one that was a converted fertilizer tank, according to Falfurrias VFD Chief Rubin Ramirez.

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.

The new slip-on has a 350-gallon water tank, a 5-gallon foam tank and is lighter than the old unit. The lighter slip-on unit will decrease the weight on the truck helping it to maneuver the Brooks County beach-like sand easier.

“Our service area has some of the largest ranches in Texas and covers 900 square miles,” said Ramirez. “The majority of our fires are wildland fires, so the new slip-on unit will be a great benefit to our department.”

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>.

