

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Bardwell Area Volunteer Fire Department meets the challenge of fighting wildfire in rough terrain

BARDWELL, Texas — Bardwell Area Volunteer Fire Department added a new large brush truck named Marcos to their fleet. The 2018 apparatus is designed to confront any challenging landscape and will increase capacity for wildland firefighting.

“We put a lot of thought into this new truck,” said Bardwell Area VFD Fire Chief Michael Anthony. “Everything from storage to safety was considered. It has a 750-gallon water tank, foam capability, remote control monitor, and cameras for the side, front and back and also bumper and under-carriage nozzles.”

According to Anthony the under-carriage nozzles were added because of a harrowing experience on one occasion when the department’s small brush truck was quickly overcome by flames. The firefighters had to jump off the truck and spray water under the bed to keep it from catching fire.

The department is very thankful for the support of the community. The truck purchase was made possible by combining their donations with a \$200,000 grant through the Rural Volunteer Fire Department Assistance Program, administered by Texas A&M Forest Service.

“Our community and surrounding area have supported the VFD since inception,” said Anthony. “Without their continual backing our department would not be what it is today. I also appreciate the grant assistance from Texas A&M Forest Service and encourage all VFDs to participate in the grant programs that they offer. Over the years we have benefitted from several of the programs, including HB2604, insurance and training.”

Bardwell Area Volunteer Fire Department also participated as a donor to the Helping Hands Program which is also administered by Texas A&M Forest Service. The program issues donated, gently used equipment at no cost to volunteer fire departments. Since 1997, Helping Hands has issued over \$40.5 million in donated equipment.

Bardwell Area VFD has been serving their community since 1994. They are grateful for all of the volunteers that keep the department staffed, helping protect their service area. The new truck was christened “Marcos”, in memory of Marcos Lasos who left a legacy as the last charter member that helped to establish the VFD. His unflinching dedication and service as a volunteer firefighter will be a lasting inspiration to the 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 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>.

