

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Rockport VFD receives grant to enhance firefighting capacity

March 2, 2017 — ROCKPORT, Texas — Texas A&M Forest Service awarded a \$38,000 grant to Rockport Volunteer Fire Department for the purchase of a new slip-on unit with a compressed air foam system. The grant was through the Rural Volunteer Fire Department Assistance Program.

“This new slip-on unit is replacing a 35-year-old steel unit that was heavier, making it harder to maneuver the vehicle,” said Rockport VFD Firefighter Danny Cox, Jr. “The new custom built slip-on is lighter and has a compressed air foam system that mixes air, water and foam to increase the capability of fire suppression. This mix of foam, air and water also makes the hose lighter and decreases the fatigue factor for the firefighters who handle the hose.”

A slip-on unit is a complete, self-contained firefighting apparatus designed for a pickup truck or custom-built vehicle platform. It is intended to become a fast, initial-attack firefighting component used for wildland firefighting, structure and automobile fires.

Rockport VFD was established in 1885 and has always looked for ways to improve service to the community. The addition of the new slip-on unit will help the department broaden their proficiency.

The department has open enrollment for anyone wanting to dedicate time and give back to the community. The firefighters meet at the fire house every Thursday at 7:30 p.m. Anyone wanting to apply as a volunteer may pick up an application at that time.

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 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>.

