

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 12, 2021

### Covington Volunteer Fire Department updates their initial-attack firefighting unit

COVINGTON, Texas – Covington Volunteer Fire Department replaced an older slip-on unit thanks to a \$20,000 cost share grant through the Texas A&M Forest Service Rural Volunteer Fire Department Assistance Program.

“Our department is glad to have this new addition to replace a unit that is over 10-years-old and was starting to have mechanical issues,” said Covington VFD Fire Chief Chris Lidster. “The new slip-on unit has a 400-gallon water tank and a 20-gallon foam tank.”

Foam is a fire retardant that helps cool the fire and coats the fuel, increasing the effectiveness of the water and creating greater fire suppression.

“Having the new slip-on unit will be a great asset to the Covington community and surrounding rural area,” said Texas A&M Forest Service Regional Fire Coordinator Matthew Schlaefer. “It will help to increase the department’s capacity with flexibility for a quick knock-down and fire control.”

Covington VFD has been serving their area since 1964.

“We would like to express our thanks to our community for their continued support that helps maintain the department,” said Lidster. “Their response to our fund raisers is appreciated and to Texas A&M Forest Service for the grant opportunity.”

The department will be having a barbecue dinner fund raiser, November 20<sup>th</sup> starting at 10:30 a.m. at the fire department located at 606 South Main Street in Covington.

Texas A&M Forest Service is an agency operating within the Texas A&M University System and as the Rural Volunteer Fire Department Assistance Program administrator is committed to protecting lives, property and natural resources. The Rural Volunteer Fire Department Assistance Program is funded by Texas State Legislature and provides cost share 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>.

