

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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\$200,000 grant helps purchase fire truck for Dawn VFD

December 14, 2016 — DAWN, Texas — Texas A&M Forest Service awarded the Dawn Volunteer Fire Department a \$200,000 grant to help assist with the purchase of a new firefighting vehicle.

The new vehicle is a 2016 Freightliner and is replacing a 1971 GMC military vehicle that the department is retiring from their fleet. The truck is outfitted with a 1,500-gallon water tank, a 200 gallon-per-minute pump, a foam system, a front bumper monitor controlled from inside the cab, and a hand controlled monitor behind the cab.

“Since we are a volunteer department, we can sometimes be short on help,” explained Dawn VFD Chief R.L. Johnson. “In theory we can operate the truck’s equipment with just two people. Since this truck is more machine oriented, we can fight the fire with fewer firefighters and it will help to take the fatigue off the firefighter.”

Dawn VFD, established in 1974, serves a population of 3,500 over 828 square miles of Deaf Smith County.

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.

For more information on programs offered by Texas A&M Forest Service, please visit <http://texasfd.com>.

