

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Earle's Chapel Volunteer Fire Department receives \$200,000 grant

JACKSONVILLE, Texas — Earle's Chapel Volunteer Fire Department received a cost share grant from Texas A&M Forest Service Rural Volunteer Fire Department Assistance Program to help purchase a new large brush truck.

“This new apparatus is replacing an older, 1992 truck that required a lot of maintenance,” said Earle's Chapel VFD Fire Chief Ted Hunt. “The department appreciates having a safer, multifunction truck to help increase our fleet capacity for wildland and structure fires.”

The Pierce Freightliner pumper has a 1,000-gallon water tank, five seat cab with a compartment for self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) and a 1,260 gallons-per-minute Hale pump.

“This new pumper will enhance the department's abilities to serve their community,” said Josh Bardwell, Texas A&M Forest Service Regional Fire Coordinator. “The department has a long and distinguished history of providing top quality volunteer service based on their training, willingness to serve and ability to maintain good equipment.”

Grant Thedford, and Murphy Milligan, Texas A&M Forest Service Resource Specialists presented the department with a live oak tree to commemorate the new fire apparatus and as a symbol of partnerships with those who share in helping to protect forests and related natural resources against wildland fires.

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>.

