

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Feb. 22, 2016

### Gatesville VFD receives \$18,000 grant

**Feb. 22, 2016 — GATESVILLE, Texas** — Gatesville Volunteer Fire Department replaced an older slip-on unit with a new diesel powered model thanks to a grant through Texas A&M Forest Service.

“The new slip-on unit has already been put into service,” Gatesville VFD Fire Chief Billy Vaden said. “There is a lot of vegetation right now and the winds are drying things out. We are glad to have a reliable piece of equipment to combat the grass fires.”

The slip-on unit has a Kubota motor, 500-gallon tank and a 200-foot hose reel. It is designed to provide stationary operation, or pump-and-roll, and is especially effective in handling off-road wildland fires.

The department has been serving their community since 1884. They are always looking for avenues to increase their capacity to serve their community and rural areas.

“The new slip-on unit will help the fire department fight wildfires both in the city and on mutual aid responses,” said Texas A&M Forest Service Regional Fire Coordinator, Mitchell LaMonte. “The department is the closest available resource to North Fort Hood.”

While serving under Texas A&M AgriLife, Texas A&M Forest Service works with fire service throughout the state to minimize the loss of life and property in response to wildfires and other all-hazard emergencies. This year Texas A&M Forest Service will award approximately \$24.3 million in grants to volunteer fire departments for the purchase of equipment and training.

To learn more about this program visit [texasfd.com](http://texasfd.com).



Nick Ware, Firefighter, Lee Walters, Lieutenant, Robert Featherston, Deputy Chief, Billy Vaden, Fire Chief, Bobby Buster, Captain and Steven Beaty Firefighter