

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 13, 2019

### Lakeside Village Volunteer Fire Department receives \$100,000 grant for new brush truck

MORGAN, Texas — Lakeside Village Volunteer Fire Department received a cost share grant from the Rural Volunteer Fire Department Assistance Program administered by Texas A&M Forest Service. The grant was used to help add a new small brush truck to the department's fleet.

“The 2019 brush truck is very well armed for wildland firefighting,” said Assistant Fire Chief Kirk Boyd. “It has a 400-gallon water tank, 12-gallon foam tank, bumper monitor and ground sweeps on both sides and the front. Even though it has 4-wheel-drive we won't be loading it down with extra equipment like rescue tools etc. We want to keep it light weight so it can function as a fast attack wildland apparatus.”

The truck is in service and ready for fire season.

“This will be a good asset to the department as well as Bosque County,” said Matthew Schlaefer, Texas A&M Forest Service Regional Fire Coordinator. “The department has started training to familiarize the members with the truck.”

The VFD's cost share portion was obtained through fund raising.

“Our department appreciates the community for all their support and Texas A&M Forest Service for having grant programs available,” said Boyd. “Small departments like ours would not be able to afford this type of truck without grant assistance.”

Lakeside Village VFD has open enrollment for volunteers.

“Not everyone has to be a firefighter,” said Boyd. “Our auxiliary members are extremely helpful and appreciated. They are supportive not only during fund raising but with taking care of the building and supplying food and water when we are on a fire. If someone wants to contribute their time, then there is probably something they can do.”

To volunteer contact Fire Chief Rex Broome at (254) 775-4253.

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>.

