

July 15, 2014

## Placedo VFD receives grant to replace old equipment

**PLACEDO, Texas** - With the help of a grant provided by Texas A&M Forest Service, Placedo Volunteer Fire Department purchased a new small brush truck for their department.

"We receive most of our funds through donations and fundraisers, and everything we had was very old and breaking down," Placedo Fire Chief Robert Zapata said. "We only had one brush truck that was running."

The new brush truck will replace one of the departments older trucks that required frequent maintenance.

"Now we can send more water, and spend less time working on the truck," Zapata said. "Our old truck required a lot of maintenance. Now we will be able to reach the site quicker and hopefully knock it down before needing other help."

The Texas A&M Forest Service passes approximately \$12.8 million along to volunteer fire departments across the state every year, helping them purchase equipment to better protect lives and property.

"This department had very few trucks, so this was a huge deal for them," TFS Regional Fire Coordinator Jared Karns said. "The equipment they were working with before was not something they could use on a consistent basis because it would often break down. Having something that is reliable will be a great asset to them."

