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July 25, 2018

Elkhart Volunteer Fire Department increases fleet capacity with new brush truck

ELKHART, Texas — A new, large brush truck is ready to roll at the Elkhart Volunteer Fire Department thanks to a \$200,000 grant through the Texas A&M Forest Service Rural Volunteer Fire Department Assistance Program.

“The new truck is automatic, has 4-wheel-drive, a front bumper water turret, 800-gallon water tank, foam system, inverter for running electrical tools and storage space for wildland and structure gear and rescue equipment,” said Elkhart VFD Fire Chief Randy McCoy. “This truck will probably be used on 99 percent of our calls.”

According to McCoy the truck will be more reliable and carry more firefighters than any of the department’s other trucks.

“The citizens of Elkhart and those within the rural response area of Elkhart VFD should be proud of the effort that their fire department put into the design of this large brush truck,” said Texas A&M Forest Service Regional Fire Coordinator Joshua Bardwell. “Chief McCoy and his fellow firefighters have an apparatus that can meet their needs in a variety of emergencies from wildfires to technical rescues, paired with the dedication to serving the community that the department has displayed for many years.”

Established in 1936, the volunteer fire department continues strong, responding to emergency calls in their 106-square-mile service area.

“We probably average 18 calls a month for any number of reasons, fires, vehicle accidents or medical calls,” said McCoy. “Our last call was to rescue a dog from a well.”

The department has 22 volunteers at this time and has open enrollment for anyone wanting to dedicate time to training and service. An application can be picked up any Tuesday night at 7 p.m. at the fire station located at 12740 South U.S. Highway 287.

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>.

