

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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City of Itasca VFD receives grant for replacement brush truck

November 14, 2016 — ITASCA, Texas — Texas A&M Forest Service recently awarded a \$41,355 grant to the City of Itasca Volunteer Fire Department for a new brush truck through the Rural Volunteer Fire Department Assistance Program.

The truck, a 2016 Ford F-450 Super Duty four-wheel drive, is a replacement for an older truck that was past the point of repair.

“The new truck has all of the modern updates and four-wheel drive, which is important when trying to get to fires in our rural community,” said City of Itasca Volunteer Fire Department Chief Cameron Offutt. “We have added a slip-on unit to the chassis which gives it the capability to be used to respond to wildland fires. The slip-on has a 400 gallon water tank and a 10 gallon foam cell, which will be especially beneficial as it will help to shorten our time to extinguish fires.”

Preparing the truck for service was a community effort, as local businesses and citizens donated their time and the necessary parts.

“Having this type of truck available will help Itasca VFD protect life and property in their community,” said Texas A&M Forest Service Regional Fire coordinator Matthew Schlaefer. “The department is ready to put the truck into service and begin training with it.” “They are very appreciative of the assistance and grants they have received.”

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 VFDs for 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>.



Pictured: Ken Sykora, George Bolling, City Administrator, Cameron Offutt, Fire Chief, and Mathew Schlaefer TFS, RFC, CinDee Garrett, City Secretary and Casey Carranza, Training Officer