

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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East Leon County VFD increases their capabilities with new slip-on unit

May 3, 2016 — OAKWOOD, Texas — East Leon County Volunteer Fire Department recently received a \$20,000 grant to purchase a new slip-on unit through Texas A&M Forest Service and the Rural VFD Assistance Program.

A slip-on unit is a durable apparatus, designed to become a fast initial-attack firefighting unit. It is used in wildland firefighting as well as structure and auto fires and is a complete self-contained firefighting system designed for a pick-up truck or custom built vehicle platforms.

“The new unit is dependable and will be a great new addition to our department,” East Leon County VFD Fire Chief Nathan Smith said. “The positioning of the unit on the truck makes it more accessible and easier to use. The hose reel and pump motor are situated so they can be accessed without having to get onto the truck.”

Already placed into service, the new unit has a 10 gallon foam tank and a 300 gallon water tank and has already proved useful on some small grass fires.

“Since our community has a lot of ranching we get a number of hay fires every year, depending on how dry the weather has been,” Chief Smith said. “Nine times out of ten if there is a structure fire in the rural area then there is usually a grass fire too, so we will take this new unit on those calls as well.”

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 the Texas State Legislature and administered by Texas A&M Forest Service. This program provides funding to rural VFDs for the acquisition of firefighting vehicles, fire and rescue equipment, protective clothing, dry-hydrants, computer systems and firefighter training.

To learn more about this program visit <http://texasfd.com>.

