

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Oct. 10, 2015

SOUTHWEST BELL COUNTY VFD RECEIVES \$18,000 GRANT

Killeen, Texas- Southwest Bell County Volunteer Fire Department recently received an \$18,000 grant from Texas A&M Forest Service to purchase a new slip-on unit. It will be used on a truck chassis they received from a 2003 TFS grant.

The slip-on unit is already in use and was recently used in fighting a brush fire. “The topography was very tight and it was difficult to maneuver the rough terrain and sheer cliffs. It was a benefit to have this new high pressure, 400 gallon water tank and 5 gallon foam unit,” says Fire Chief Joe Bailey.

The VFD serves a 98 square mile service area, including Fort Hood. According to TFS, Regional Fire Coordinator Mitchell LaMonte, “The newly converted truck, with the new slip-on unit, will serve the department well and be a piece of reliable equipment.”

Volunteer firefighters operate 85 percent of the fire departments in Texas. This year TFS will pass approximately \$24.3 million along to VFDs across the state. The grant funding aids in purchasing equipment and obtaining vital firefighter training, giving them greater capabilities to protect life and property in their communities.

“The TFS vehicle and equipment programs are a good thing for volunteer fire departments. One of the most positive points is that the regional fire coordinators are so helpful in assisting us with any issues we may have. They are very good about answering or finding the answer to questions,” Bailey said.

To learn more about the Rural VFD Assistance Program visit texasfd.com.



Pictured left to right: Secretary of the Board of Directors, Natalie Lee, Captain, Steven Cornelius, Treasure of the Board of Directors, Dan Brown, Fire Chief, Joe Bailey, RFC, Texas A&M Forest Service, Mitchell LaMonte