

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **\$100,000 grant helps Marble Falls Area Volunteer Fire Department develop fleet**

MARBLE FALLS, Texas — A new, small brush truck will help increase the capacity of the Marble Falls Area Volunteer Fire Department thanks to a cost-share grant from the Texas A&M Forest Service Rural Volunteer Fire Department Assistance Program. The new Ford F550 is equipped with a 300-gallon water tank and a foam system.

A brush truck is an initial-attack unit used to help meet the demands of the fire service. It is a pickup truck or chassis that has a tank, pump and hose mounted to the bed or platform and is used as a quick assault on grass and brush fires.

“This truck is replacing a 1997 F350 that was equipped with a 200-gallon water tank,” said Marble Falls Area VFD Fire Chief Michael Phillips. “The new brush truck is shorter in length and higher off the ground enabling quicker, easier access in the rough terrain. It will give the firefighters a safer vehicle with greater water volume which will be a benefit in suppressing fires in the rural areas that do not have a water source.”

The department’s 120-square-mile service area can offer challenges when responding to wildland fires. The size and build of the truck will allow the department to navigate wooded terrain and climb the rocky hills, decreasing response time, resulting in less property damage.

The versatile brush truck is in service and has been useful in extinguishing a structure fire, a grass fire and in response to a medical call.

Marble Falls Area VFD has been serving the community since 1936.

“The department has open enrollment and is always looking for dedicated individuals who would like to give back to the community,” said Phillips. “Marble Falls Area VFD could not function without committed volunteers. Anyone interested in joining may check the department’s website at [mfavfd.org](http://mfavfd.org) for more information and an application.”

The VFD appreciates the Texas Legislature and Texas A&M Forest Service for making the grant programs possible. The department’s cost-share portion was obtained through fund raising over the past few years and support from the Burnet County Emergency Service District #6.

“The grant has allowed our department to purchase up-to-date equipment and gives the firefighter a tool to help protect lives and property in a safer more efficient manner,” said Phillips.

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 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>.

