

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### Penelope VFD receives military truck and \$20,000 grant

**June 7, 2016 — PENELOPE, Texas** — Penelope Volunteer Fire Department was recently awarded a military excess vehicle from the Department of Defense Firefighter Property Program and an HB2604 grant both administered by Texas A&M Forest Service.

Recipients of the military vehicle are required to convert it into a service-ready unit within 180 days of acquisition.

“Our volunteers painted it and added a water tank, pump, whip lines, foam tank and bumper monitor,” Penelope VFD President David Kucera said.

The \$20,000 grant was for the purchase of a slip-on unit.

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

The transformed truck will have a large impact on the department’s capabilities as it replaces a twenty-year-old vehicle that had smaller tanks.

The service area of the Penelope VFD is mostly farm land and pasture according to Kucera.

“In the past we had several corn field and cotton module fires, so this vehicle will give the department a great advantage when fighting those types of fires,” Kucera said.

The truck also brings the capability to perform high-water rescues as well as structure and vehicle fires.

Texas A&M Forest Service Regional Fire Coordinator Matthew Schlaefter said, “The department is happy to have a multiuse truck that will be beneficial when responding to grass and structure fires.”

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>.

