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Jan. 8, 2016

Wheeler VFD receives first new firefighting vehicle

WHEELER, Texas — The Wheeler Volunteer Fire Department received their first new large brush truck with a Compressed Air Foam System, thanks to Texas A&M Forest Service’s Rural VFD Assistance Program.

“This truck is a great addition because we were running with only military surplus equipment,” said Wheeler VFD Fire Chief Robert Ford. “This new truck will be useful when responding to wildland, structure and other types of fires.”

This versatile vehicle has already gone into service. It was used in mutual aid response to the Gem City 1 fire that consumed 3,600 acres.

“Wheeler VFD has a big need for this truck since they respond to multiple types of fires,” said Richard Eubank, TFS, RFC. “The tank system on this apparatus is designed to carry both class A and B foam and will be a great asset to the department.”

The Class A foam aids in fire suppression and can prevent re-ignition when fighting wildland and structural fires. Class B foams are designed to contain explosive vapors produced by flammable liquids.

“The CAFS unit is extremely valuable in our rural service area because of all the petroleum and gas. It has a 40 gallon Aqueous AFFF storage tank. Aqueous film-forming foam is a special product that is used to fight petroleum-based fires,” said Ford.

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 grants aid them in purchasing equipment and obtaining vital firefighter training, giving them greater capabilities to protect life and property in their communities.

To learn more about this program visit texasfd.com.

