

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Pleak Volunteer Firefighter Association receives \$200,000 grant for replacement tanker

PLEAK, Texas — Texas A&M Forest Service awarded a \$200,000 grant to Pleak VFF Association for a tanker through the Rural VFD Assistance Program.

“The new tanker will replace a vehicle that had been out of service for about a year and a half because it was no longer operational or road worthy,” Day Crew Firefighter, Jordan Blegan said. “Serving a growing area, we needed to be able to keep up with the growth with a fully operational vehicle.”

According to Blegan, the vehicle is not only set up as a tanker but also constructed to include pumper capabilities in order to accommodate carrying up to 2,000 gallons of water.

The VFF covers 16 square miles with approximately 3,000 people and two large construction companies.

“It can draft from a creek, a swimming pool or a pond if needed,” Blegan said. “In addition, the tanker is equipped with rescue, extrication tools and can be used for EMS calls and car fires.”

Over 85 percent of fire departments in the state of Texas are either completely or mostly operated by volunteers. TFS passes approximately \$12.8 million along to volunteer fire departments across the state every year, helping them purchase equipment to better protect lives and property.

“If it wasn’t for TFS, VFDs wouldn’t be able to grow with their community,” Blegan said. “They are an integral part of our survival.”

To learn more about this program visit texasfd.com.



Daryl Schmidt, Day Crew Fireman and Jeremy Wagner, Texas A&M Forest Service, RFC