

**May 5, 2015**

**Mullin VFD increase capabilities with new equipment**

**MULLIN, Texas** — Texas A&M Forest Service recently awarded Mullin Volunteer Fire Department an \$11,600 grant to help them purchase a new slip-on unit.

“Where we are located there is a water problem,” Fire Chief Bud West said. “We have to use a well or tank for water and they are not always available in the open country, so water becomes a very precious commodity. About 90 percent of our fires are grass fires, so the new 1,400 gallon tank gives us the ability to stay and fight the fires longer.”

The VFD serves around 750 square miles of rural territory, along with providing mutual aid to two surrounding counties.

“[This unit] will help their department tremendously with response to structure and wildland fires in their response area,” Regional Fire Coordinator Mitchell LaMonte said.

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.

“The grant programs through TFS are a life saver to the smaller volunteer fire departments,” West said. “Most of them couldn’t have the equipment that they have without the benefit of the grants.”

To learn more about this program visit [texasfd.com](http://texasfd.com).



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