



Press Release

Palo Pinto County ESD No.1 / Oct 18, 2025

ESD1 Fire Stations Awarded More Than \$1.5 Million in State Firefighting Equipment Grant

The Texas A&M Forest Service
awarded grants to multiple fire
departments across Palo Pinto
County



One District One Mission

PALO PINTO COUNTY, TX – Multiple fire stations within Palo Pinto County Emergency Services District No. 1 (ESD1) have been awarded more than \$1.5 million in new equipment grants through the Texas A&M Forest Service's Rural Volunteer Fire Department Assistance Program, a statewide initiative that supports local and rural fire protection efforts.

The awards include:

- Graford, Possum Kingdom East, Possum Kingdom West, Strawn, and Palo Pinto – each receiving a new water tender truck and a slip-on unit
- Gordon and Santo – each receiving a slip-on unit

Each water tender truck grant is valued at up to \$300,000, and each slip-on unit at up to \$45,000, providing vital equipment upgrades for emergency response across the district.

The funding is part of a historic \$164 million investment by the 89th Texas Legislature—the largest allocation in the program's history—which will supply 558 fire trucks and 321 slip-on units to departments across Texas.

“This is a tremendous investment that directly benefits our local firefighters and strengthens our ability to protect lives and property,” said

ESD No. 1 Fire Chief Danny Watkins. “These trucks and slip-on units will help ensure our stations are equipped to respond more effectively across all areas of the district.”

Texas A&M Forest Service Public Information Officer Adam Turner added,

“This new fire equipment is a great opportunity for our local departments. We are happy to be able to put on this program and provide equipment and resources to fire departments across Texas. These fire departments are the backbone of fire suppression in Texas, and we couldn’t be happier than to help them serve their local communities.”

The Texas A&M Forest Service established the Rural Volunteer Fire Department Assistance Program in 2001 under House Bill 2604 to provide funding for essential firefighting equipment and training. Since its inception, the program has awarded over \$500 million in grants statewide.

About Palo Pinto County ESD No. 1

Palo Pinto County Emergency Services District No. 1 delivers fire protection, rescue, and emergency medical response across a service area that encompasses communities throughout Palo Pinto County. With a blend of committed volunteers and professional personnel, PPCESD No. 1 is devoted to safeguarding lives and property through efficient, dependable, and prompt emergency response.

