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Retired military truck gets new lease on life with Elsa Volunteer Fire Department

November 14, 2016 — ELSA, Texas — A new coat of paint and feature conversions by the Elsa Volunteer Fire Department have repurposed a two and a half ton military truck into a new fire response vehicle.

The Elsa VFD received the military cargo truck through the Department of Defense Firefighter Property Program. The program, in cooperation with Texas A&M Forest Service, sends retired military vehicles to be repurposed by volunteer fire departments.

The 1998 Steward and Stevenson military cargo truck was stripped of its desert sand paint and then outfitted with a 750 gallon water tank, pump, emergency lights, and a fresh coat of black and red paint.

The truck has four-wheel drive, power steering and an automatic transmission, and is expected to improve safety and efficiency of the department.

The truck, known as Brush 4, will assist the department with its numerous wildland fire calls.

“This truck is a much needed addition to the Rio Grande Valley,” said Texas A&M Forest Service Regional Fire Coordinator Travis Pecht. “The truck will not be confined to the city limits of Elsa. When called upon it will respond to rural Hidalgo County and neighboring fire departments.”

The Department of Defense Firefighter Property Program, overseen by the USDA Forest Service, provides excess military equipment to fire departments and emergency service providers. Launched in Texas in 2005, this program has released over 400 retired military trucks to VFDs across the state to help them better protect lives and property. Texas A&M Forest Service transports the vehicle from a military installation, performs necessary repairs and delivers it to the volunteer fire department at no cost to them.

For more information on programs offered by Texas A&M Forest Service, please visit <http://texasfd.com>.

