

Department of Defense Firefighter Property Program

Firefighter Property Program Places Needed Vehicle in Missouri

The Challenge

Fire departments, regardless of their size or the locale they serve, provide a variety of fire and rescue services to residents. Equipping a volunteer fire department to provide these services is expensive and a challenge for its members and the community.

The San Antonio Fire Protection District (FPD) is a volunteer fire department that serves a rural community of 800 residents east of St. Joseph, MO. San Antonio serves a 35-square-mile area that starts on the east side of St. Joseph's city limits. It also helps the nearby Easton Fire Protection District service an additional 40 square miles.

The Solution

The Firefighter Property Program is a Department of Defense Program that provides equipment that firefighting units can use to provide fire and emergency services. In Missouri, it is administered by the U.S. Forest Service and the Missouri Department of Conservation.

In 2009, the Missouri Department of Conservation notified the San Antonio FPD that a 1986 Chevrolet truck was available through the Firefighter Property Program. San Antonio acquired the truck, and then proceeded to convert it into a rescue unit. Fire department personnel remodeled it with a new coat of paint, front bumper and grill guards, emergency lights, running boards, wheels, and tires.

Resulting Benefits

The Firefighter Property Program provided a vehicle that was suitable for conversion into a needed rescue truck for a portion of the cost of a new or used rescue unit. It also allowed the title of this vehicle to be transferred to the fire department. The total cost for this project was \$15,000 to \$17,000. If the fire department had purchased this type of vehicle, it would have cost \$27,000 to \$30,000.

“As you can see it turned out great, better than our dreams. This is our pride and joy.”
— Chief Warren Knadler



Left and rear photos of the remodeled San Antonio Fire Protection District's Rescue 1. (Photos by Chief Warren Knadler, San Antonio Fire Protection District)

Sharing Success

The Missouri Department of Conservation entered the Firefighter Property Program in late 2007. Since then, it has issued 519 vehicles valued at \$17,495,608. This program also facilitates the acquisition of emergency medical supplies, small firefighting items, and miscellaneous equipment to fire departments. The Missouri Department of Conservation has issued a total of 71,189 small items worth \$10,836,058 to fire departments.



U.S. Department of Agriculture
Forest Service
Northeastern Area
State and Private Forestry
www.na.fs.fed.us

November 2011

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