

## Project Description

The Waco Community Volunteer Fire Department is an all-volunteer fire department serving residents and business of the Waco Fire District. The Waco Fire District lies on the county line between Cleveland and Gaston Counties (NC). Approximately two-thirds of the district is in Cleveland County with the remaining one-third in Gaston County. The Waco Fire District includes the Town of Waco and all unincorporated areas between the City of Shelby (Cleveland County) and the City of Cherryville (Gaston County). The Waco Community Volunteer Fire Department has mutual aid agreements with Cleveland County, Gaston County, City of Shelby, and City of Cherryville. We answer automatic first alarm assignments with the City of Cherryville and the following fire districts: Cleveland, Fallston, Oak Grove, Trynota, Hugh's Pond, and Crouse. We answer multi-alarm fires anywhere within Cleveland and/or Gaston Counties. **The purchase of this equipment has superb interoperability due to its potential use throughout a two county response area.**

The Waco Fire District covers approximately 78.5 square miles. Less than 5% of the 78.5 square miles is located within 1000 feet of a fire hydrant. The portion of the fire district covered by hydrants is in fairly new (post 1990) subdivisions. These same subdivisions account for less than 5% of the department's call volume. So, 95% of the department's call volume occurs in 95% of the district "without" fire hydrants. Thus, it is imperative that we depend on a water shuttle at these emergency scenes.

After conducting a community needs assessment, for the Waco Fire District, the Waco Community Volunteer Fire Department has determined that we need to protect our investment in our personnel by protecting their health and safety and replacing non-complaint equipment and apparatus. The Waco Community Volunteer Fire Department is requesting \$198,000.00 from the FEMA Assistance to Firefighter Grant Program. These expenses are to cover the cost of a Tanker and the associated equipment necessary to conform to NFPA 1901. The Waco Community Volunteer Fire Department will contribute \$ 19,800.00 to the purchase price of this equipment. The Tanker identified is on a commercial chassis, which allows room for a large water tank, a body that has plenty of hose bed, and compartment space. It's features include: Freightliner chassis, aluminum body for lightweight and corrosion resistance, polypropylene water tanks; 1,250 gallons for excellent water shuttle capability, two-door, two-man cab, mid-ship pumps; 1,250 gpm, cab controls for 1 person water shuttle operation, ground ladders, and portable tank. **We must emphasis our department has always purchased commercial chassis; it doesn't make sense to us to purchase large and expensive custom apparatus when the apparatus generally leaves the station with only the apparatus operator.**

## Cost / Benefit

One of our main goals is to protect the health and safety of the public and our firefighting personnel with respect to fire and fire related hazards. The new Tanker will play a vital role in providing adequate fire flow capabilities for our firefighting personnel. This new apparatus will replace a non-complaint high mileage apparatus, which is no longer

dependable as a front line apparatus due to the high mileage and difficulty in obtaining parts for repairs and our preventative maintenance program. The purchase of an NFPA 1901 complaint apparatus is a major contribution to the health and safety of the public we protect and our firefighting personnel.

A county service tax district currently funds the Waco Community Volunteer Fire Department. We receive \$3,457.50 a month for a total of \$41,490.00. Our approximate operating cost is \$24,000.00 annually and the remaining \$17,490.00 is spent maintaining and purchasing equipment such as personnel protective equipment and self-contained breathing apparatus. We have periodically applied for and received state grants to assist us in keeping NFPA complaint PPE and SCBA for our firefighting personnel; these state grants cannot be used for fire apparatus purchases. Our service district lost a large portion of its tax base due to annexation and an economic down turn in the textile industry; all of the textile mills in our fire district have filed bankruptcy. Our funds will not increase until there is a positive growth in the county and will only increase at that time if the positive growth is not eroded by annexation. Furthermore, as our funds have held static over the last several years our call volume has continually grown. Emergency calls have increased 64% since 1998, from 159 to 245 calls. **These two dilemmas coupled together places us in a financial position that does not allow us to consider such a project described within this narrative without help from the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program.**