



News Release

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LANIER COUNTY RECEIVES FIRE PROTECTION GIFT

Residents in south Georgia's Lanier County are receiving enhanced protection from fire, thanks to a generous grant and the combined efforts of several sponsors. On Thursday, January 19, the Lanier County Fire and Rescue Department will unveil its new fire truck, built by the Georgia Forestry Commission and made possible by a \$10,091 award from Wells Fargo Insurance Services and Fireman's Fund Insurance Company. Donor representatives and county commissioners will be in attendance at Thursday's 11:00 a.m. dedication ceremony, which will be held at Lakeland/Lanier County Fire Rescue Station #1, Highway 221 South in Lakeland, GA, 31635.

"We are proud to be able to help Lanier County Fire and Rescue in such a tangible way," said Paul Lazar, Senior Vice President, Wells Fargo Insurance Services in Atlanta. "It can be prohibitively expensive for a fire department to acquire key equipment like this and we hope this donation makes a difference."

According to Georgia Forestry Commission Chief of Forest Protection, Alan Dozier, the grant covered costs for two critical pieces of equipment. "Engineers at the Georgia Forestry Commission's Rural Fire Defense shop in Macon built a 2,000-gallon tanker with a water pump," said Dozier. "They also replaced a 1970's model gasoline water pump on another truck with a new diesel pump."

"These pumps double our water supply capabilities," added Lakeland/Lanier County District Fire Chief, Gary Yeomans. "We are in a much better position now to handle both wildland and structural fires in our community." According to Yeomans, Valdosta's Langdale Industries was instrumental in identifying the fire department's need for the funds and in facilitating application and delivery of the award.

The grant is part of a nationwide philanthropic program funded by Fireman's Fund Insurance Company, and is designed to provide needed equipment, training and educational tools to local fire departments and burn prevention organizations. Since 2004, Fireman's Fund has issued grants to more than 1,800 different organizations totaling more than \$28 million. Independent insurance agencies and brokers that sell Fireman's Fund products, such as Wells Fargo, help direct these grants to support fire service.

The Georgia Forestry Commission's Protection Department supports Rural Fire Departments by building fire suppression equipment, presenting training for local firefighters and providing emergency fire response services throughout the state. For more information on Georgia's forest industry and services provided by the Georgia Forestry Commission, visit GaTrees.org.

Information about Wells Fargo and Fireman's Fund can be found at www.wellsfargo.com/wfis and www.firemansfund.com.

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