



## NEWS RELEASE

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### **LPFA helps bring bigger trucks to four Sabine Parish fire stations** Interest-free loan helps Fire District purchase larger tankers, service vehicle

**BATON ROUGE** — Fire stations in four rural Sabine Parish communities will be able to better protect residents with the addition of improved fire trucks, thanks in part to a zero percent interest loan provided by the Louisiana Public Facilities Authority.

Sabine Parish Fire District No. 1 is purchasing three 3,500 gallon tanker trucks that will be used by the Plainview, Lakeside and Mount Carmel substations. The three tankers, which all utilize a 2000 Peterbilt chassis, can each carry nearly 2,000 gallons more water than the trucks they are replacing. Additionally, the Fire District is purchasing a 1990 International Harvester service truck for the Florien substation that will be used to carry tools such as extrication equipment, ladders and generators. The service truck will be able to carry the equipment more effectively than the small Dodge cargo van it replaces.

District Fire Chief Jason Holcomb said the new vehicles will help bolster fire protection in each of the communities while helping the fire stations maintain their fire ratings. Fire ratings are a major determinant in property insurance rates.

“We’ve got to be able to pump at least 1,000 gallons of water per minute, and these tankers will help us do that,” said Holcomb. “Being able to shuttle more water to these fires will help us keep insurance rates down for these residents.”

The Fire District borrowed \$250,000 to complete the purchase. Hancock Bank of Louisiana provided the bulk of the financing, with the LPFA contributing \$37,000 —15 percent of the total—at zero percent interest. This saves the Fire District \$3,684.

The loan was provided under the LPFA's Local Government Bond Bank Program, which allows municipalities and other governmental bodies needing to finance equipment purchases or construction projects to reduce overall interest rates.

Through the program, governmental entities work with local banks to obtain the most favorable loan rates before going to the LPFA for further help in lowering rates. The LPFA typically provides up to 15 percent of the total principal at zero percent interest, which creates substantial cost savings for borrowers by lowering the overall interest rate.

"This is a good example of how our Bond Bank program helps communities across Louisiana purchase equipment for the benefit of their residents," said Martin Walke, Vice President of Economic Development for the LPFA. "Acquiring these trucks will help better protect these Sabine Parish residents, and the LPFA is pleased to be a part of this."

The Louisiana Public Facilities Authority is a self-supporting public trust and public corporation that issues both taxable and tax-exempt bonds to finance public and private projects throughout the state. The LPFA finances industrial and economic development projects, provides low-cost funding for hospitals and hospital equipment, universities and other educational facilities, student loans and essential programs for state and local governmental units. The LPFA does not receive any funds from the state for its operations.

For more information about LPFA, call (800) 228-4755 or visit the LPFA website at [www.lpfa.com](http://www.lpfa.com).

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