



NEWS RELEASE

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LPFA helps bring new 2,500-gallon fire truck to DeSoto Parish Interest-free loan provides better fire protection for Gloster-area residents

BATON ROUGE — Gloster-area residents served by DeSoto Parish Fire Protection District No. 2 will enjoy improved fire protection from a new 2,500-gallon pumper truck, thanks in part to a zero percent interest loan provided by the Louisiana Public Facilities Authority.

The new truck will be outfitted with a compressed air foam system, which delivers fire retardant foam that helps contain and extinguish fires. The truck was equipped by Ferrara Fire Apparatus in Holden and will replace a 1982 pumper truck.

“The new truck will be placed at the Gloster central station to help areas that receive a high number of calls,” said Kathy Tucker, clerk for DeSoto Fire Protection District No. 2. “Older trucks are sometimes unreliable and this truck equipped with the CAF system will be a valuable asset to the community. The new four-door truck also fits more people so additional fire fighters can ride along and assist.”

The Fire Protection District borrowed \$318,000 to complete the purchase. Community Bank of Louisiana provided the bulk of the financing, with the LPFA contributing \$30,000, 15 percent of the total at zero percent interest. This saves the Fire District \$13,547.

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.

“Through our Bond Bank Program, the LPFA is committed to helping communities from around Louisiana purchase the equipment needed to keep their residents safe,” said Martin Walke, Vice President of Economic Development for the LPFA. “This new fire truck will help provide better protection for the Gloster area, 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.



Suggested Caption: The LPFA helped DeSoto Parish Fire Protection District No. 2 purchase a new 2,500-gallon pumper truck that will serve Gloster-area residents. The District saved money on the purchase through the LPFA's Bond Bank Program.

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