

## White Bluff VFD Chief's Report, June 2025

### Calls for Service:

Medical	12
Boat Rescues	3
Grass Fires	2
Structure Fires	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>18</b>

The department was on scene of a fatal accident on FM933 that included an entrapped driver. Several departments were present, and we were using our Hurst hydraulic jaws and Whitney VFD was using their set of hydraulic jaws to free the victim. Our set stopped working as the driver was freed. There was some problem with the small engine that drives the pump. It started to work again later at the station. This was a wake-up call that we needed to update the 30-year-old combination tool that we have had for as long as anyone could remember. Research indicated that

the Amkus brand which used an available rechargeable Dewalt 60v battery was our best choice. We witnessed an impressive demo of the cutter and spreader along with Whitney FD. We learned that we could purchase the demo units with full factory warranty and save about nine thousand dollars over the price of a new set. This was presented to the WBVFD board and approved for purchase. We will maintain the old unit as backup on Engine 231 and the Amkus cutter, spreader and ram will be stored on Engine 331 as the primary rescue vehicle.

A similar situation effects one of our TICs (thermal imaging camera). It was included in the purchase of Engine 231 making it about eleven years old.

Technology has improved drastically over the years, and it is time to replace the old camera. I will be asking the board for permission to purchase two new cameras for the replacement of the one on Engine 231 and one for the chief's vehicle.

The Tanker has a water leak and sticking valves. It has a lifetime warranty from Deep South, the manufacturer of the unit. They picked up the tanker

and transported it back to their factory in Mississippi for warranty repair. It will probably take forty-five to sixty days for the repair and return to service. During this time, we will be without a large volume of water available at a fire scene. Blum and Whitney have tankers available if needed.

ESD1 has completed the purchase of an office and enclosed garage spaces to store equipment they own. The purchase includes five acres of land to use for training to include old, wrecked cars for hands on training with the hydraulic rescue tools. This is a huge step forward for the agency that oversees all fire departments in Hill County.