

Troutman Fire Department gets check for new equipment

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Wednesday, June 6, 2007

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Pictured (from left) are Iredell County Commissioner Godfrey Williams; Troutman Town Aldermen Mike Spath and Betty Jean Troutman; Troutman Fire Chief Allen Church; Erin Laverly of Fireman's Fund; and Charlene Smith, agency manager for BB&T Insurance.
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get to," said Troutman Chief Allen Church.

The \$8,800 came from the Fireman's Fund Insurance Co. and BB&T Insurances, Inc.

Erin Laverly of Fireman's Fund said the insurance company has a long history of helping local fire departments.

Through its Fireman's Fund Heritage Program, the company has been contributing to local fire departments since 1863.

She said the Heritage Program provides grants for the purchase of equipment, fire prevention tools, firefighter training, fire safety education and community emergency response programs.

Charlene Smith, agency manager for BB&T Insurance Services Inc. in Statesville, said this is a perfect opportunity for her company to support the community and a local fire department.

"Our local firefighters need to be working with the best equipment available," she said. "The water-pumping device will greatly enhance their firefighting abilities and better protect the homes and families of those who live in the Troutman area."

Church said he hopes the addition of a second Turbo Draft will help his department provide better protection to the citizens of his district and help those residences get lower insurance ratings.

"This new, portable pump will make us more versatile in fighting fires," he said. "In dire situations, when we have limited water supply, we will be able to tap into virtually any body of water we can find."

The fire department also plans to buy three portable radios.

The Troutman Fire Department is surrounded by a large body of water, but most of it is inaccessible in the event of a major fire.

The department received some help to address that situation Tuesday with an \$8,800 grant to purchase a Turbo Draft system, which will allow firefighters to pump water directly out of Lake Norman or any body of water.

This will be the second Turbo Draft for the department, which received the money from two homeowner's associations to purchase one.

The second Turbo Draft will be placed on a truck in Troutman's substation off Pineville Road.

The Turbo Draft is a portable water-drafting system that allows a truck to pump water without direct access to the water point.

"We have billions of gallons of water in the lake that we can't really