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# LPFA

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## Richard Volunteer Fire Department Acquires New Fire Truck

*Purchase of New Model Boosts Response and Saves Maintenance Costs*

**BATON ROUGE** -- For the first time, Acadia Fire Protection District No. 1 in Richard added a new fire truck to its fleet. The move - made possible by the community's approval of a parcel fee and the District's acquisition of a low-interest loan - will save maintenance costs.

The purchase of a new truck, a departure from the District's previous reliance on used fire engines or refurbished vehicles, will help the District avoid an estimated \$20,000-\$30,000 per year to maintain older vehicles. It might also help boost the community's fire rating, a key factor in containing property insurance rates, District Chairman Wendell Middlebrooks explained.



Chief Dusty Edwards (left) and Board Chairman Wendell Middlebrooks of Acadia Fire Protection District No. 1 stand next to the District's new fire truck.

"Our fire district has not been able to afford a new fire truck in the past. We always bought new and salvaged vehicles," Middlebrooks said. "But when we realized we could save money on an ongoing basis by purchasing a new vehicle, we knew it was a wise decision. Our community's passage of the parcel fee provided the financial support we needed to move forward."

The District purchased its \$350,000 fire truck from 5 Alarm Fire Apparatus in Houma. It paid for the fire engine, in part, with the proceeds from the sale of two existing trucks it no longer needed. The District borrowed the balance, which included a \$75,000 loan through Louisiana Public Facilities Authority's Local Government Bond Bank Program. The loan, which was part zero-interest and low-interest, will save the District \$5,700 in future interest payments.

Department Chief Dusty Edwards said the LPFA program helped stretch Department dollars, making it possible to outfit the new truck with additional equipment.

"The remote areas where we often have to operate, make it necessary for us to carry our own electric generator. We used to transport our generator in a separate vehicle, but we were able to equip our new truck so this is no longer necessary," he said.

"Also, purchasing a new fire truck with all the latest features made it possible for us to eliminate older vehicles from our fleet," he explained. "It's not only more efficient, but it's also safer for our volunteer firefighters and more effective for the community we serve."

LPFA Vice President for Economic Development Martin Walke said, "Rural communities often have limited equipment, so they have to allocate resources wisely. We're pleased the Bond Bank Program afforded the Richard Volunteer Fire Department an opportunity to maximize its community's investment by purchasing a new, more efficient fire truck."

### **About LPFA's Zero Interest Local Government Bond Bank Program**

[The LPFA Local Government Bond Bank Program](#) is a voluntary program established by the LPFA Board of Trustees solely with LPFA funds to help local governmental entities and their constituents. This program is designed to help address the financing needs of local governmental entities and to reduce their overall borrowing costs.

### **About Louisiana Public Facilities Authority (LPFA)**

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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 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 the LPFA and its low-interest loan programs, click [here](#).

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