

Grants to Pay for Fire Truck in Bradley, Van to Transport Needy Citizens in Grady County

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OKLAHOMA CITY (March 6) -- A new tanker truck for fighting fires in Bradley, and a van for transporting disabled aged residents of southern Grady County, will be purchased with state funds that were awarded recently by the Association of South Central Oklahoma Governments.

The announcement was issued by Rep. Bill Mitchell, D-Lindsay; Sen. Bruce Price, D-Hinton; Rep. Ron Langmacher, D-Carnegie; Rep. Raymond McCarter, D-Marlow; Sen. Carol Martin, R-Comanche; and House Speaker Pro Tempore Emeritus Jim Glover, D-Elgin.

ASCOG awarded a \$29,000 grant to Bradley to buy a newer tanker truck, to enhance local fire fighting and water supply capabilities. The community's fire department has a response area that is so large "this piece of equipment will be of great benefit to the community and the surrounding area," Mayor Robert Pinnick said.

ASCOG also awarded a \$30,000 grant to Grady County to acquire a handicapped-accessible van for the Washita Valley Transit System. Senator Price donated \$5,000 of his personal funds for the vehicle, and the Washita Valley Community Action Council based in Chickasha contributed \$4,500 for the van, ASCOG documents show.

The vehicle will be used to transport elderly and handicapped citizens in Alex, Bradley, Ninnekah and Rush Springs and from community services, records indicate. An estimated 500 Grady County residents will benefit from the \$39,500 van, including 250 in Rush Springs, 100 each in Ninnekah and Alex, and 50 residents in Bradley.

Both grants were derived from ASCOG's allocation in the Rural Economic Action Plan (REAP).

The Legislature created the REAP in 1996 to help finance public improvements in communities of 7,000 population or less, particularly areas with 1,500 or fewer residents, Glover recalled. State lawmakers have appropriated \$114 million to the program over the past six years, ledgers reflect.