



Spur Volunteer Fire Department Receives \$10,000 from South Plains Electric Cooperative and CoBank

LUBBOCK, TX (X) – Spur Volunteer Fire Department received a \$10,000 donation from South Plains Electric Cooperative and CoBank to help them build a new fire station. This donation comes as the old building at the new location of the fire house is being demolished. The check presentation will be on Thursday, June 23, at 2 p.m. at the future fire station site at 3rd St. and Burlington Ave.

The Spur Volunteer Fire Department was in major need of a new fire station. Their building was built in the early 1900s and it was to the point of being unrepairable; they needed a brand-new building. Not only will it help the fire department, but it will also help Spur's economic development. Local individuals have already partnered to build the VFD a new building, and South Plains Electric and CoBank are honored to help.

South Plains Electric Cooperative's goal is to provide safe and reliable electricity at the lowest-possible cost. SPEC abides by the Seven Cooperative Principles, and one Principle is commitment to community. The Cooperative gives back to many charities and organizations in the local communities they serve. It's part of the cooperative difference.

CoBank is a cooperative bank serving vital industries throughout rural America. The bank provides loans, leases, export financing and other financial services to agribusinesses and rural power, water and communications providers in all 50 states. As a cooperative, CoBank is also committed to supporting the communities it serves and regularly partners with its customers to invest in worthwhile charitable causes.

"South Plains Electric Cooperative was happy to partner with CoBank once again, and together, help make a difference locally," said General Manager Dale Ancell. "Our goal is to improve the quality of life in our communities, and that goes beyond just providing electricity. We know what an asset the VFD is in the community of Spur; we are even honored to have several employees volunteer their time to the VFD. So, when we heard they had a need, we knew we wanted to help."

Wess Abbott, Fire Chief at Spur VFD, said, "South Plains Electric Cooperative and CoBank have done it again! These two organizations have repeatedly shown what it means to give back to their local communities and emergency services in need. All aspects of firefighting are expensive. Fire apparatuses, rescue equipment, personal protective equipment, and the facilities that house all that equipment is just too expensive for volunteer firefighters to be able to raise money for with small fundraisers. Volunteer fire departments would have severe challenges if it were not for the support of local businesses, grants, and private donors. South Plains Electric Cooperative and CoBank understand the importance of taking care of the people they serve and rural communities. South Plains Electric Cooperative is the one who

initiated the grant writing process through the grant that CoBank offers. All of us on the Spur volunteer fire department were shocked to hear of the donations and are truly grateful. This new fire station is a godsend and will be something this community can be proud of for generations to come.”

South Plains Electric Cooperative’s donation was matched by CoBank through its Sharing Success program. Sharing Success was established in 2012 to celebrate the International Year of the Cooperative. Since the program’s inception, CoBank and its customers have together provided more than \$66 million in support to charitable organizations across the nation.

“CoBank is proud to partner with customers like South Plains Electric Cooperative through our Sharing Success program,” said Dean Church, vice president, CoBank. “Through this contribution, South Plains is making an investment in the future growth and vitality of this community and CoBank is delighted to join them in this important effort.”

About South Plains Electric Cooperative

South Plains Electric Cooperative, a local Touchstone Energy[®] Cooperative, serves more than 60,000 connected meters in all or part of 18 counties. When you see Touchstone Energy, you know you are being served with accountability, integrity, innovation and commitment to community. For more information about South Plains Electric Cooperative, visit the Co-op’s website at SPEC.coop and follow them on social media.

About CoBank

CoBank is a cooperative bank serving vital industries across rural America. The bank provides loans, leases, export financing and other financial services to agribusinesses and rural power, water and communications providers in all 50 states. The bank also provides wholesale loans and other financial services to affiliated Farm Credit associations serving more than 76,000 farmers, ranchers and other rural borrowers in 23 states around the country.

CoBank is a member of the Farm Credit System, a nationwide network of banks and retail lending associations chartered to support the borrowing needs of U.S. agriculture, rural infrastructure and rural communities. Headquartered outside Denver, Colorado, CoBank serves customers from regional banking centers across the U.S. and also maintains an international representative office in Singapore.

Contacts

Lynn Simmons
South Plains Electric Cooperative
Director of Communications
806-775-7826
lsimmons@SPEC.coop

Sherry Johnson
CoBank
Senior Manager, Corporate Social Responsibility
303-740-6518
sjohnson@cobank.com

Wess Abbott
Spur VFD

Fire Chief

806-549-1731

wessabbott@yahoo.com