



## **Childress Fire Department Receives \$10,000 from South Plains Electric Cooperative and CoBank**

**LUBBOCK, TX (X)** – Childress Fire Department received a \$10,000 donation from South Plains Electric Cooperative and CoBank to help them relocate their Firefighter Training Facility. This facility allows firemen to experience live burns, study fire science, apply new and existing methods to extinguish fires, and learn how to recognize hazards that change into volatile and dangerous situations while in a live burning building. The check presentation will be on Thursday, July 13, at 3 p.m. at the Childress Fire Department (100 Commerce St. NW).

The Childress Fire Department was required to relocate their Firefighter Training Facility. This facility allows the Department to train in a controlled environment where any surrounding volunteer group can come share knowledge and train alongside the Department. The need for power outlets to travel trailers at the former site required the Department to relocate the facility to some land near the sewer plant. The Department needed concrete to stage the shipping container on and also needed fencing. This building not only helps the Childress Fire Department, but also surrounding departments such as Paducah, Quanah, Crowell, or any other fire department that wishes to train in a live burn environment. South Plains Electric Cooperative and CoBank were happy to partner with the Fire Department 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 Childress; 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."

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.

“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<sup>®</sup> Cooperative, serves more than 70,000 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](http://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.

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