

July 1, 2009

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Left to right: Fire Marshal Stacy Singleton, Police Commander Cindy Aaron, SWAT Asst. Team Leader John Brackett, Det. David Feucht, Police Commander Doug Sandifer, Mayor Ken Shetter, Congressman Chet Edwards, Police Chief Tom Cowan, and Police Commander Chris Havens.

The Burleson Police Department unveiled the City's newest response truck, a Lenco Bearcat four-wheel-drive armored vehicle. The Bearcat was on display at the City's service center at 2:15 p.m. on July 1.

At the press conference were Burleson Police Chief Tom Cowan, Commanders Doug Sandifer, Cindy Aaron and Chris Havens, Det. David Feucht and SWAT Assistant Team Leader John Brackett. Also, Verlie Edwards representing State Rep. Rob Orr, Matthew Geske representing State Rep. Chris Turner and law enforcement representatives from Forest Hill, Godley, Grandview, the Johnson County Sheriff's Office, Fort Worth Police Department, Joshua, Keene, Rio Vista, Mansfield and Venus police departments.

GRANT: Fiscal Year 2008 Homeland Security Grant

GRANT AMOUNT: \$227,411

TITLE: Incident Response Vehicle with Chemical Biological Radiological Nuclear and Explosive (CBRNE) capabilities

GRANT WRITER: Fire Marshal Stacy Singleton

GRANT PROJECT COORDINATOR: Det. David Feucht

JURISDICTIONS DIRECTLY AFFECTED BY GRANT APPROVAL: Alvarado, Briaroaks, Burleson, Cleburne, Cross Timber, Crowley, Everman, Forest Hill, Godley, Grandview, Johnson County, Joshua, Keene, Mansfield, Rio Vista, Somervell County, Tarrant County and Venus.

BURLESON'S POPULATION: 34,350

Burleson straddles the Tarrant and Johnson county lines

TARRANT COUNTY'S POPULATION: 1.5 million plus

JOHNSON COUNTY'S POPULATION: 150,000 plus

DALLAS-FORT WORTH METROPLEX POPULATION: 5 million plus

Burleson has mutual aid agreements with more than 100 law enforcement agencies. Burleson's SWAT team has responded to assist other agencies that do not have SWAT teams or whose SWAT team needs backup. Response scenarios include potential incidents at Somervell County's nuclear power plant, with the area's railways, natural gas wells and Spinks Airport as well as deployment with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), United States Marshal Service, Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and Secret Service.

The objective of the Incident Response Vehicle is to continue to assess public surveillance, detection and response systems against national and international best practice models through the use and coordination of four specialized subcommittees including Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT), Explosive Ordinance Disposal (EOD), Hazardous Materials (HazMat) and Urban Search and Rescue (USAR).



According to the grant, "The vehicle will allow officers to respond with the ability to detect nuclear and explosive gas weapons. The vehicle will protect officers from the threat of small arms fire and explosive devices. Officers will be able to gain command and control through the use of this vehicle. This vehicle provides a much needed tool for officers to safely conduct these operations whether they are terrorist-related, tactical in nature, or a natural disaster."

Training of Burleson officers as well as officers of surrounding agencies will be an ongoing process so all tactical teams will be able to promptly deploy and provide for the safety of officers and citizens.