

NEWS RELEASE

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Co-op responds to local needs

Mount Airy, NC – The Mount Airy Fire Department just received a boost in reliability thanks to a \$360,000 zero-interest loan from Surry-Yadkin Electric Membership Corporation (SYEMC). The loan was used to help pay for a new 500-gallon pumper fire truck, which was delivered this week.

“It’s a tremendous addition to our fleet. It has many new safety features, durability and ensures the guys are going out there in a safe vehicle,” Chief Zane Poindexter explained.

The new truck will be used to replace one of two aging fire engines that was put into service in 1995. The City’s 1995 Sutphen pumper truck has undergone more maintenance in recent years, but the new Smeal pumper will help increase service reliability.

The funds were loaned by SYEMC as part of the United States Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant (REDLG) program. The program provides grants and interest-free loans to local electric cooperatives, who in turn lend the money to local governments and non-profit agencies for projects that support rural communities.

“We are very proud to partner with the City of Mount Airy to help meet this need for local citizens,” SYEMC General Manager and Executive Vice President Greg Puckett said. “That is why our co-op was originally founded: to meet a need that existed in our community.”

This is the electric cooperative’s first economic development project funded through REDLG. The federal program underscores an important cooperative principle: concern for community. As funds are repaid to SYEMC, the co-op can re-lend the money to support new community projects in its service area.

Surry-Yadkin Electric Membership Corporation is a local, not-for-profit electric cooperative that provides power to more than 27,000 metered accounts in Surry, Yadkin, Wilkes, Stokes, and Forsyth counties. The cooperative’s mission is to provide outstanding service that powers our rural communities. For more information about SYEMC and the co-op’s community programs, visit syemc.com.



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