

PRESS RELEASE

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**Burnet County receives grant from the Texas
Veterans Commission for \$50,000**

Burnet, Texas – Burnet County has received a \$50,000 grant from the Texas Veterans Commission Fund for Veterans' Assistance to help fund the VETRIDE program that offers transportation services to veterans in Burnet, Lampasas, and Llano Counties. The grant begins January 1, 2016 and goes through December 31, 2016.

VETRIDE, which was formed in 2010, provides critical transportation services to honorably discharged veterans, their dependents, surviving spouses, caregivers and services animals. Rides are given to VA facilities in Austin, Cedar Park, Temple, San Antonio, Kerrville, and Brownwood as well as local pharmacies, clinics, and grocery stores if needed. VETRIDE currently serves 140 veterans, 36 dependents, and 9 surviving spouses; a total of 410 since the program started.

The Texas Veterans Commission grant will partially cover the operating cost of the VETRIDE program and help it continue at full capacity with six VETRIDE vans for veterans and their families. Over 100,000 miles are driven annually to help the veterans get to their scheduled medical appointments. The veterans who call for a ride can again be assured of this assistance in 2016.

James Oakley, Burnet County Judge, showed his appreciation by stating, "Burnet County is grateful to the Texas Veterans Commission for their continued support of our VETRIDE program. The \$50,000 grant will help us continue supporting our local veterans' needs. We are proud of those who served and grateful they live in our communities." Bill Worley, Burnet County Veterans Services Officer, added, "This grant is instrumental in enabling VETRIDE to continue its invaluable service to the Veterans of our community. Without the support of the Texas Veterans Commission and local donations, we simply

could not offer this service to Veterans who have given so much for our country. I am thankful for all of the support that we get which allows us to help those in need.”

The VETRIDE program is accepting donations to continue this important service to veterans, their dependents, and surviving spouses. For more information about VETRIDE or how you can support its community effort, visit burnetcountytexas.org, under “Departments,” choose Veterans Services, and click on the VETRIDE red logo. Sophie McCoy, the VETRIDE program manager, is also available to answer questions, and she can be reached at 830-613-9982 or 877-851-8838. Checks can be written to VETRIDE and mailed to Burnet County Treasurer, 220 S. Pierce St., Burnet, TX.

Texas Veterans Commission Fund for Veterans’ Assistance

The Fund for Veterans’ Assistance grant program was established in 2007 by the 80th Legislature and funded in late 2009. The program awards reimbursement grants in four categories: General Assistance, Housing4TexasHeroes, Veterans Mental Health, and Veterans Treatment Court Grants. These grants offer funding to non-profit and local government organizations which, in turn, provide direct services to Texas Veterans and their families. Since 2009, the Texas Veterans Commission (TVC) program has awarded over \$55M in 307 grants to 142 non-profit and local government entities. For more information, visit www.tvc.texas.gov.

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