



Serving Ben Wheeler and surrounding communities.

Jaws of Life?

BWFD Sets a 1-Year Goal to Upgrade Life Saving Equipment

Driving down Hwy.64, you look down to change the song on the radio. You inadvertently swerve onto the shoulder of the road. While you attempt to regain control, the car flips. In the blink of an eye, you are pinned upside down with a broken leg. In this situation, rescue workers need tools commonly called the *Jaws of Life* to cut you out of the car.

You need out! Now!

Life Saving Hydraulic Tools



Ben Wheeler, June 2021- KETK NBC

Ben Wheeler Fire Chief Gary Ross says: "The community deserves modern extrication tools. The department's current tools are 50-year-old technologies; limited by gas-powered pumps and several feet of hose. The latest battery-operated tools perform faster, are more portable, and require less maintenance. The bottom line is, we need more power to save lives."



Chief Gary F. Ross
"We need more power."

Before being elected Chief in 2019, Gary Ross comes from a long history of strong leadership.

- Retired Commander, US Navy
- Retired Fire Chief, CalFire
- Patrol Coordinator, VZ County
- Owner, Ross Trucking

"These new cutters and spreaders can roll a dashboard up and away from the victim and cut the door hinges in 5~10 minutes. The new equipment will enable us to get the injured patient to the nearest trauma center within the "Golden Hour".

"We receive a small stipend from the County that covers the station's utilities. However, unlike incorporated cities and towns, property owners in

our response district do not have a line item on their property taxes for emergency services. Without support from the community, BWFD cannot fund equipment maintenance and upgrades."



Community Call to Action

Our one-year goal to obtain new extrication tools and other critical apparatus is estimated to cost nearly \$50,000. **More than 90% of that will come from your donations.** We are asking the community; businesses and individuals, to dig deep.

Follow this link for on-line donations:

<https://benwheelerfd.org/donate/>

Or mail a check to: P.O. Box 396
Ben Wheeler, TX 75754

Chief@BenWheelerFD.org

First Annual Chili Cook-Off

The First Annual Chili Cook-Off was held on March 20, 2021 in honor of Grave Digger's member:

Bradly "Tripp" Eaton

Tripp was Ryan Cooley's Sergeant at Arms and best friend.



Chief Ross presenting an Appreciation Plaque to Ryan Cooley of the Grave Diggers M.C. Mr. Cooley was recently elected a Director of the Ben Wheeler Fire Department.

Many thanks to sponsors Elder Dodge, AAA Sanitation, Twisted Cedar Child Care Center, Country Bakery and Inflatables, FR Girls of Texas, and Grave Diggers M.C. People's Choice Award went to *Patriots of Texas R.C. Brownsboro*. Judges Choice was awarded to the Grave Diggers M.C. We're looking forward to a 2022 rematch!

Come Get Some Namaste



\$5 donation to the BWFD requested.



Established in 1963, the Ben Wheeler Fire Department provides emergency response for safety of life and property. BWFD assigned district covers 44 sq. miles, and also provides mutual-aid to areas in VZ County, Edom, Van, Midway and Smith County.

The station operates 3 Fire Engines, 2 Brush Trucks, 1 Water Tanker/Tender, and a Light Rescue/Command Vehicle. After a refit program in 2019, the Tanker was put back into service after 3 years of dormancy. The remaining vehicles are 20 or more years old.

Volunteers Needed: First Responders and Support

The BWFD is a member governed organization. All members must be at least 18 years of age and are in one of two groups:

First Responders

- Reside within response distance
- Hold a valid TX Driver's License
- Attend training classes
- Respond to emergency calls



J.R. Bond, Captain
Gary F. Ross, Fire Chief
Quen McDonald, Assistant Chief
Jacinto Loredo, Captain

Support Staff



Monthly Membership Meeting

- Perform administration, media, I.T. duties, event assistance, maintenance, public relations
- Not required to respond to scenes

We have a great deal of comradery and consider each other family! Fill out an application to join our team!

Response Statistics

January ~ July 2021

Total Calls	94
Medical	58
MVAs	22
Grass Fires	4
Other	10

10 of the calls were mutual aid to other fire departments. 25 of the total calls were in July.

Y'all take care out there!



Join us for the Ben Wheeler
Feral Hog Festival
October 22~23, 2021

<https://benwheelertx.com/events/Turkeycreekcountryresorts@gmail.com>