

## **Brush 1381**

Originally this apparatus, a 1976 Chevrolet C 20 4 x 4 was in the Tallahassee Fire Department's fleet as Brush 6. When the City of Tallahassee deemed it replaceable it was offered to the Leon County VFDs and Woodville signed the lease. During the leasing years Woodville upgraded the pump and water tank to a more modern skid pack style which is still working great on this unit today. This apparatus holds 125 gallons of water with a forestry style pump powered by a 5hp gas powered engine giving it the pump and roll capability which is so valuable in a brush fire.

In the Spring of 2005 the Woodville Volunteer Fire Department elected to cease leasing this apparatus and purchased Brush 1381 from the City of Tallahassee. Still equipped with the old-style Q siren and a single bubble gum red light on the top of the cab the first improvement was to upgrade the emergency lights and siren. The truck bed was in rough shape with years of rust and body decay.

So, with the awesome talent of now retired Tallahassee firefighter Rick Brewer the restoration process began. Rick designed, and custom built the flatbed you see in the photos, mounted the skid unit and tool boxes. After much discussion the decision was made to change the color scheme to the gray you see in the photos. The massive pipe front bumper has proved invaluable in allowing our brush fire fighting beast to force entry thru the foliage when accessing a brush or wildfire.

Brush 1381 is equipped with the following: 125 gallons of water in the forestry style skid unit, self-contained breathing apparatus, numerous firefighting hand tools, forceable entry tools, chainsaw, medical bag and an AED.

This 42-year-old apparatus is our baby/beast and currently assigned to Lieutenant Tom Mihalich at his home. Now don't tell Tom he drives an old truck. He prefers to call her a classic.