USDA/Rural Development

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News Release

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USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT ANNOUNCES FUNDING FOR WINCHESTER AREA VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

Winchester, Texas, September 30, 2003— Bryan Daniel, State Director, Texas USDA Rural Development announces today that the Winchester Area Volunteer Fire Department received a $26,500 loan and a $13,500 grant through the agency's Community Facilities Loan and Grant program. The effort is part of USDA's Rural Development's national program to help provide rural areas build and enhance essential community facilities.

"USDA Rural Development's Community Facilities program helps rural communities keep pace with the needs of their rising populations," said Daniel. "Rural residents can utilize our programs to help provide essential public services that will enhance the quality of life for all rural residents."

The funds will be used to purchase a new fire truck which will serve the residents of Winchester, Fayette County, Texas, a population of 300.

In Fiscal Year 2002, a total of $12 million in direct and guaranteed loans were obligated. Community Facilities loan funds may be used to construct, enlarge, or improve community facilities for health care, public safety, and public services. These loans and grants are made to public entities and non-profit organizations. Examples of eligible projects include rural healthcare clinics, town halls, fire trucks, county safety equipment, jaws of life, early warning systems, community centers, libraries, day care centers, and schools.

For more information regarding USDA Rural Development programs, contact the Bastrop Local Office at: 512-321-3428, Ext. 4.

USDA Rural Development is an Equal Opportunity Lender, Provider, and Employer. Complaints of discrimination should be sent to: USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410.

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The USDA Rural Development mission area was created in 1994 and includes the Rural Business-Cooperative Service, the Rural Housing Service, and the Rural Utilities Service. Its mission is to use the resources of USDA to provide an improved quality of life for the nation's 53 million rural people.

USDA **For more information on USDA Rural Development programs in Texas, check our web site at http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/tx/.**