# NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture • Rural Development
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## USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT ANNOUNCES FUNDING FOR WINCHESTER AREA VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT, INC.

**WINCHESTER, Texas, May 5, 2004** – Bryan Daniel, state director, Texas USDA Rural Development announces that Winchester Volunteer Fire Department, Inc. received a $26,500 loan and a $13,500 grant. USDA Rural Development is charged with assisting rural communities by administering programs targeted to strengthening the economy and infrastructure of rural areas.

"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 are being used to purchase firefighting equipment. Population in the service area is approximately 300.

In Fiscal Year 2003, a total of $15.2 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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*USDA Rural Development was created in 1994 and includes Business Programs, Housing Programs, and Utilities Programs. Its mission is to use the resources of USDA to provide an improved quality of life for the nation's rural residents.*

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