



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture • Rural Development
1520 East Denman, Suite 104, Lufkin, Texas 75901

Phone: (936) 634-9900, Ext. 4 • Fax: (936) 634-9905 • TDD: (254) 742-9712 • Web: <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/tx>

Date: March 30, 2006
Release Number TX 186.06

Contact Name: Sabrina Glenn
Telephone Number: (936) 634-9900, Ext. 4
Email: Sabrina.Glenn@tx.usda.gov

USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT ANNOUNCES FUNDING FOR LAKE NACOGDOCHES AREA VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT, INC.

NACOGDOCHES, TEXAS, March 30, 2006-- Bryan Daniel, USDA Rural Development State Director, today announced Lake Nacogdoches Area Volunteer Fire Department, Inc. was selected to receive a \$24,000 loan and a \$12,000 grant through the agency's Community Facilities Loan and Grant Program. The effort is part of a USDA Rural Development mission to help rural areas build and enhance essential community facilities.

"USDA Rural Development Community Facilities Programs help 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 combined with funds from FEMA and the Texas Forest Service to purchase a pumper truck and a brush truck to help provide fire protection in their service area. The Fire Department's current pumper truck is a 1972 model and maintenance on the truck is getting more expensive every year.

In Fiscal Year 2005, \$31.8 million in Community Facility direct and guaranteed loans and over \$900,000 in grants were obligated in Texas. Funds are used to enhance the quality of life for residents of rural areas by providing the means for construction, expansion, or enhancement of community facilities, telecommunication and distance education programs, and water and waste disposal systems. These programs are important because they supply a number of growth opportunities to communities with improved utility facilities, increased job availability, and technology and educational resources. Since 2001, USDA Rural Development Community Programs have awarded \$1.8 billion for these purposes, and touched the lives of more than 1.16 million households in the process.

USDA Rural Development strives to see that rural citizens can participate fully in the global economy by providing technical assistance, funding, and other programs that help rural Americans build strong economies to improve their quality of life. For further information regarding USDA Rural Development Programs, contact the Lufkin Local Office at (936) 634-9900, Extension 4, or visit our website at <http://rurdev.usda.gov/tx/>.

#

Committed to the future of rural communities.

"USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender."

To file a complaint of discrimination write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice or TDD).