



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture • Rural Development
209 East Mulberry, Suite 500, Angleton, Texas 77515

Phone: (979) 849-5251, Ext. 4 • Fax: (979) 849-7190 • TDD: (254) 742-9700 • Web: <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/tx>

Date: June 13, 2006
Release Number TX 240.06

Contact Name: Deborah Wright
Telephone Number: (979) 849-5251, Ext. 4
Email: Deborah.Wright@tx.usda.gov

USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT ANNOUNCES FUNDING FOR ROSHARON VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT, INC.

ROSHARON, TEXAS, June 13, 2006-- Bryan Daniel, USDA Rural Development State Director, today announced Rosharon Volunteer Fire Department was selected to receive a \$24,500 Direct Loan through the Community Facilities Loan Program. This effort is part of the USDA Rural Development mission to help rural areas build and enhance essential community facilities.

“The USDA Rural Development 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 2006 Ford F-350 4x4 single cab long bed XL pickup with a trailer towing package. The truck will be used to carry a self contained fire fighting skid unit which was obtained from the Texas Forest Service. The vehicle will replace a 1976 Ford F-250 brush unit which is no longer feasible due to high maintenance and repair costs.

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 Angleton Local Office at (979) 849-5251, 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).