



NEWS RELEASE

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USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT ANNOUNCES CEREMONIAL CHECK PRESENTATION TO CULBERSON HOSPITAL DISTRICT EMS

VAN HORN, TEXAS, June 13, 2006-- USDA Rural Development presented a ceremonial check today to Culberson Hospital District EMS, who has been awarded \$35,000 through the agency's Community Facilities Grant Program. The grant funds will be used to purchase a 2006 Ford E-450 ambulance for emergency transportation of injured or ill patients. The District currently owns two ambulance units that provide service to over 3,800 square miles with the nearest trauma center 120 miles away from the City of Van Horn.

"USDA Rural Development is committed to providing assistance to rural towns and communities, to help them provide valuable services to their residents," said Bryan Daniel, USDA Rural Development State Director.

In Fiscal Year 2005, a total of \$991,000 in Community Facility Grants was 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. 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 was created in 1994 to serve Texas' more than 3.6 million rural residents. For further information regarding USDA Rural Development Programs, contact the El Paso Local Office at (915) 855-1229, Extension 4, or visit our website at <http://rurdev.usda.gov/tx/>.

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