



USDA Assists Terrell County in Purchase of Ambulance

When Terrell County Judge Santiago Flores first approached USDA Rural Development, he explained that the County fleet of ambulances included a 2009 model that was in the shop, a 2004 model that needed to be repaired but was still being used, and a 1995 model that had to be brought back into service.

Terrell County is one of the largest counties in the state with 2,358 square miles. A medical clinic is located in the county seat of Sanderson but the nearest hospital is located in Fort Stockton, 65 miles to the northwest in Pecos County. The route from Sanderson to Fort Stockton is along U.S. Highway 285 through the mountains with little to no cell or radio service. Judge Flores explained that the paramedics are required to check in when they arrive at Pecos County Memorial Hospital in Fort Stockton. If the paramedics fail to check in, then someone starts looking for them. That is exactly what happened when an ambulance on its way to Fort Stockton overturned, injuring two paramedics. This accident left the County with only one working ambulance.



USDA Rural Development State Director and Congressman Hurd's office present a plaque to Terrell County Judge and paramedics.

USDA Rural Development was able to approve a \$10,000 loan and a \$30,000 grant to assist with the purchase of a new ambulance which was put into service during 2015.

One of the keys to community and economic development is to provide access to readily available healthcare, including the purchase of emergency vehicles needed to deliver that care. Healthcare is one of the first things considered by potential employers and employees moving to an area. But more importantly, a reliable ambulance saves lives of rural residents when time is critical.

USDA Rural Development Community Programs enhance the quality of life for rural Texans by providing funds to governmental entities, nonprofit organizations and Indian Tribes for essential community facilities and services. Funds may be used for a variety of community projects. Previous funds have been used to enlarge, improve or construct schools, libraries, farmers markets, medical clinics, assisted living centers, public buildings, community centers or fund new and improved water and wastewater facilities. Funds are also available to purchase public safety equipment such as ambulances, firefighting equipment and other required emergency service gear.

Obligation Amount: \$10,000 loan and \$30,000 grant

Date of Obligation: May 15, 2014

Congressional District: Representative Hurd, District 23; Senators Cornyn and Cruz

Partners: Terrell County

Demographics: Terrell County Population—984

Impact: The funding allowed Terrell County to purchase a much needed ambulance in order to provide reliable access to quality first response services.