



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

South Plains Emergency Medical Services, Inc.

1217 Avenue K
Lubbock, Texas 79401

806/747-0183

For further information contact:

OFFICERS

Mayor Giles C. McCrary, Chairman
L.B. Landes, Vice Chairman
Dan Powers, Secretary
Millard Carnrick, M.D., Treasurer

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Jerry Boudreaux
T.Coe Branch, M.D.
Mayor Bob Brown
Mayor Claude Brown
Chris Farmer
Gayle Fortenberry
Allen Gray
Jerry Hearn
David Herbert, M.D.
Herbert M. Hinckley, M.D.
Whitelaw H. Hunt
Mary Helen Jamerson
Bonnie Jackson
Francis C. Jackson, M.D.
Sam Medina
Rodger Mitchell
John O. Peck
Edwin S. Rigsby
William H. Tinney, M.S.
Glen Williams, County Judge

Honorable Giles C. McCrary
Mayor of Post
Chairman, South Plains Emergency
Medical Services
P.O. Box 790
Post, Texas 79336
(806) 495-2051

Emergency Medical Services (EMS) in fifteen South Plains counties have been awarded a federal grant for \$220,000 to help improve emergency medical care throughout this region during the next 12 months.

Giles C. McCrary, Mayor of Post and Chairman of the South Plains EMS Committee, says the grant will help counties and towns develop a system of emergency care that can respond to medical emergencies anywhere in this 15-county area.

South Plains EMS, a private, non-profit association that will administer the grant, is composed of consumers, elected officials and providers of health services.

"Competition for this funding was intense," Mayor McCrary said, "because only about 20 such grants were to be awarded nationwide. Fortunately, we had regionwide support that was effectively demonstrated in Washington by South Plains EMS representatives and Congressmen Kent Hance, (D) Lubbock,

Coordinating the delivery of emergency medical services throughout the South Plains area; Serving the counties of: Bailey, Cochran, Crosby, Dickens, Floyd, Garza, Hale, Hartley, King, Lamb, Lubbock, Lynn, Motley, Terry and Yoakum.

(more)

EMS Funding
Add 1

"This grant will help us buy communications equipment and provide training for ambulance personnel," he said. "We'll be able to support the coordination and planning that will help the accomplishments of individual communities combine into a regionwide EMS system. All this will assure the best in emergency medical care for every person in our 15-county area."

Mayor McCrary emphasized that these improvements won't take place overnight. He said this first year of funding will make such improvements possible in the near future, especially if federal funding continues.

Funds from the Department of Health, Education and Welfare are available for development of EMS systems because of the EMS Systems Act of 1973. The Act provides grants for up to four years of system development. The grant is channeled through the Texas Department of Health, which helps coordinate several other EMS grants statewide.

Counties that will benefit from the grant are Bailey, Cochran, Crosby, Dickens, Floyd, Garza, Hale, Hockley, King, Lamm, Lubbock, Lynn, Motley, Terry and Yoakum.