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# NEWS RELEASE

## USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTS SOUTHWEST CITY WITH EARLY STORM WARNING SIRENS

Bruce Hively, Area Specialist for USDA Rural Development, presented a Mock Check in the amount of \$24,750 to the City of Southwest City during a ceremony held on March 31, 2006, at their City Hall. The grant funds will assist with the purchase of two early warning storm sirens benefiting the residents and local businesses in the Southwest City area and have capability for remote activation. The McDonald County 911 Center will partner with the City and provide activation at the appropriate time.



Left to Right: Janice Durbin, City Attorney; Mildred Warner, Council Member; Sandra Marrs, City Clerk; Nathan Correll, Field Representative for Senator Talent; Stacy Burks, District Office Director for Senator Bond; Steve McIntosh, Field Representative for Congressman Blunt; Ryan McKee, Mayor of Southwest City; Ron Thomas, Rural Development Manger.

Congressman Roy Blunt said, "The purchase of these new early warning storm systems is important to the security and well-being of the people of this rural community. The citizens and local businesses of Southwest City will soon be better informed about the approach of impending severe weather with the purchase of these early warning storm sirens. This monetary assistance from the USDA Rural Development shows its continuing commitment to the future of rural communities in Southwest Missouri."

Mayor Ryan McKee expressed his appreciation, "Thanks to outstanding financial assistance from USDA, Rural Development, the city of Southwest City is able to afford protection for the citizens in this community from the number one threat in this area, which is severe weather."

Greg Branum, Missouri State Director for USDA Rural Development said, "Special thanks are extended to our federal elected officials including U.S. Senators "Kit" Bond and Jim Talent plus U.S. Representative Roy Blunt for making available federal monies for funding this kind of project providing essential services for rural Missouri." Branum added, "This kind of assistance mirrors USDA Rural Development's mission and President Bush's initiative of being committed to the future of rural communities."

Anyone seeking more information about this or any other USDA Rural Development program may visit the homepage at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/mo/> or by contacting Ron Thomas, Rural Development Manager, at 1900 S. Business Hwy 71, Neosho, MO, 64850, or by calling (417) 451-1007 extension 4 or by email to [ron.thomas@mo.usda.gov](mailto:ron.thomas@mo.usda.gov).

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