

Contact: Angela Reynolds, Rural Development Manager 573-785-9679

## \$118,408 USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT GRANT TO CARTER COUNTY

The City of Van Buren was the setting for a \$118,408 Mock Check presentation from U.S. Congresswoman Jo Ann Emerson and Rural Development State Director Gregory Branum to Presiding Commissioner, Gene Oakley on November 2, 2006. Community Facility Grant funds will be used to renovate an existing building to be used as a Justice Center and for three emergency warning sirens for Carter County.

"Our public safety is of paramount importance in rural Missouri, and our justice centers and our early warning sirens are of critical importance. Many individuals work extremely hard on behalf of the public safety and the law. These projects for Carter County emphasize our commitment to being prepared for emergencies, as well as providing capable law enforcement on a day-to-day basis. I very much appreciate USDA Rural Development for identifying this opportunity to invest in Carter County, and I thank U.S. Senators Kit Bond and Jim Talent for their involvement and support," said U.S. Representative Jo Ann Emerson.



Gene Oakley, and State Director Greg Branum. Standing behind are Rural Development Manager Angela Reynolds, Rural Development Area Director Pam Anglin, Dr. Greg Batson, Ozark Foothills Regional Planning, County Clerk Becky Gibbs, County Commissioner Eddie Ballard, and Rural Development Specialist Phyllis Minner.

"Funding important projects like this by Rural Development mirrors President Bush's initiatives for rural America and Rural Development's commitment to the future of rural communities," Branum said. He added, "Appreciation is also extended to U.S. Senators "Kit" Bond and Jim Talent and U.S. Representative Jo Ann Emerson for supporting USDA Rural Development. They have been strong proponents of providing essential services to rural Missourians." In addition, Branum recognized Ozark Border Electric Cooperative for their assistance in providing a utility pole and installation of the siren.

Oakley stated, "This is a Great step forward for public safety for Carter County. This will make the Sheriff's department and dispatch more efficient and the warning sirens will add an additional measure of public safety. I want to thank Pam Anglin and Greg Branum of Rural Development and Felicity Brady of

**Ozark Foothills Regional Planning Commission for all their efforts, as well as Congresswoman Jo Ann Emerson to help not only large towns, but also small towns for their efforts to improve quality of life.”**

**USDA Rural Development’s mission is to deliver programs in a way that will support increasing economic opportunity and improve the quality of life of rural residents. As a venture capital entity, Rural Development provides equity and technical assistance to finance and foster growth in homeownership, business development, and critical community and technology infrastructure. Further information on rural programs is available by visiting USDA’s web site at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/mo/> or can contact Angela Reynolds, Rural Development Manager at Poplar Bluff Office, 4327 Hwy 67 N, Poplar Bluff, Missouri 63901 or by calling 573-785-9679 ext. 4.**

**“Committed to the Future of Rural Communities.”**

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