



# NEWS RELEASE

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## USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROVIDES GRANT FUNDS TO CITY OF CENTER FOR PATROL CAR AND EQUIPMENT

Morris Westfall, Missouri State Director for USDA Rural Development, announced the awarding of \$18,450 to the City of Center and presented a Mock Check to Dennis McMillen, Mayor in a ceremony October 8, 2008 at the City Park.

USDA Rural Development provided two (2) grants totaling \$18,450, along with \$6366 contribution by the City of Center, to purchase a new patrol car and equipment. The patrol car will increase safety to this rural community with a population of 644 residents by replacing an unreliable vehicle.

“Police officers, who put others before themselves to protect their communities, deserve nothing but the best,” said U.S. Senator Claire McCaskill. “I am pleased that this grant will allow the City of Center’s Police Department to continue to serve and protect Missouri families.”

“I am grateful USDA Rural Development was able to partner with the City of Center on this funding,” said U.S. Congressman Kenny Hulshof. “Each of us understands how important it is for law enforcement officials to have the necessary tools to effectively do their jobs throughout the state, but particularly in rural Missouri. These two grants for the purchase of a patrol car and then to equip the car will be a great asset to Center for years to come. Yet again, this stands as another great example of how our tax dollars that we each send to Washington, D.C., are put to use and brought back to make a difference in our local communities.”

Mayor McMillen of Center said, “The City of Center is extremely excited to have received this grant from USDA for our new 2009 Dodge Charger patrol car. We appreciate the assistance they provided



Front Row: Cheryl Elliott, Area Specialist; Morris Westfall, Missouri State Director; Tracey Carman, City Clerk. Back Row: Nick Johnston, Center Police; Jamie Allen, Center Police; John Lake, Center Alderman; Scott Callicott, Representative for Congressman Kenny Hulshof; Llona Weiss, Representative for Senator Claire McCaskill; Rachel Bringer, State Representative.

us in acquiring this vehicle, which will be a huge asset to our community. We want to thank USDA for their involvement in this project; this would not have been possible without them.”

“This kind of assistance mirrors USDA Rural Development’s mission and President Bush’s initiative of being committed to the future of rural communities,” said Westfall. “Appreciation is extended to our federal elected officials for supporting USDA Rural Development. They have been strong proponents for the necessary funding for essential services for rural Missourians.”

The funds are part of the Community Facilities Program, which provides grants and loans to assist in the development of essential community facilities in rural areas and towns up to 20,000 in population.

Anyone seeking more information about this or any other USDA Rural Development programs may visit the homepage at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/mo/> or by contacting Cheryl Elliott, Rural Development Manager, 17623 Hwy 19, New London, MO 63459, or by email to [cheryl.elliott@mo.usda.gov](mailto:cheryl.elliott@mo.usda.gov) or by calling (573) 985-7211 extension 4.

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