



NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Catherine M Walters 573-649-9947

USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROVIDES \$ 2,868.00 TO THE CANALOU RURAL FIRE DEPARTMENT

Greg Branum, the Missouri State Director of USDA Rural Development, presented the Canalou Rural Fire Department with a \$2,868 Mock Check on Tuesday, October 17, 2006. The funds will be used to purchase fire protection equipment for the personnel of the Fire Department.

"I am very pleased to announce that the Canalou Rural Fire Department will be receiving this grant," said U.S. Sen. Jim Talent, Member of the Senate Agriculture Committee. "Providing new resources for Missouri's first responders is a priority and grants like this one mean better protection for the community and increased emergency preparedness for Missouri."

"Our firefighters and our first responders risk their lives for the safety of others. In rural communities like Canalou, our first responders are also our friends and neighbors. It is so very important that they have the equipment and training to do their jobs safely and well. I am extremely glad that USDA Rural Development has identified this opportunity to invest in our first responders, and I am grateful to U.S. Senators Kit Bond and Jim Talent for their strong support of this opportunity for a Southern Missouri community that will derive great benefit from this grant," said U.S. Representative Jo Ann Emerson.

Fire Chief, Steve Joyce said, "We wish to thank the USDA, Rural Development and all elected officials that helped make this grant available. Our local fire department is essential to this community and the surrounding area. Since our location is remote it is very important for us to have a fire department that is equipped to protect the public."

"Funding important projects like this by Rural Development mirrors President Bush's initiative of being committed to the future of rural communities," Branum 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."

Anyone seeking more information about this or any other USDA Rural Development may visit the homepage at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/mo/> or can contact Catherine M. Walters, Rural Development Manager, at the Charleston Local Office of USDA Rural Development at 831 S Hwy. 105, Charleston, MO 63834 or by calling 573-649-9947.



Left to right: Collector Thelma Slayton, Rural Development Area Director Pam Anglin, Sen. Jim Talent's Office Jeff Glenn, Rural Development Manager Cathy Walters, Fire Chief Steve Joyce, Rural Development Area Specialist Phyllis Minner, Fire fighter Bubba Southern, Mayor James Taul, captain Shwan Parden, County Commissioner 1st Dist. Mark Barker, Rural Development State Director Greg Branum. Kneeling: Deputy Fire Chief Blake Sindle

"Committed to the future of rural communities."

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