



Committed to the future of rural communities.

NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Tresia Webb 573-888-6664

USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROVIDES \$ 13,500.00 TO THE CITY OF STEELE

Greg Branum, the Missouri State Director of USDA Rural Development, presented a Mock Check in the amount of \$13,500 to Mayor Mike Davis on October 17, 2006, in a ceremony held at the Kennett Rural Development Office. The mock check represents approval of funds to purchase a new police vehicle for the City of Steele. This car will be an additional police car for the city. The city currently has 4 full time police officers and 4 part-time officers and only two police cars. The additional car is needed to protect the citizens of Steele.



Front row left to right: Rural Development State Director Greg Branum, Rural Development Manager Tresia Webb, and Mayor Mike Davis.
Back Row: Rural Development Area Director Pam Anglin, St. Rep. Terry Swinger, St. Senator's Office Rob Mayor Brad Jarrell, Rural Development Area Specialist Phyllis Minner, and Police Chief Michael Tomlinson.

U.S. Senator Jim Talent, a Member of the Senate Agricultural Committee, said, "I am very pleased to announce that the City of Steele will be receiving this grant. Our law enforcement officers should have the best equipment available to help protect our communities. The additional police cars will increase patrolling and reduce response time in the event of an emergency. By making these funds available, we are taking the necessary steps to improve safety in the community."

"The purchase of a new police vehicle for the citizens of Steele marks an important opportunity to better serve the public and to provide safety and protection for the officers who work on our behalf. In Steele, just as in other rural Missouri communities, our first responders are also our friends and neighbors. Their vehicles are extremely important to their work, and a new vehicle is essential to giving the highest level of public safety to the residents of Steele. 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.

"I want to thank USDA for their partnership with the City of Steele in the purchase of a new police car," said Mayor Mike Davis. "USDA has been a great friend to the small rural communities in Southeast Missouri. USDA has become a great ally in the future of our community here in Steele. We are currently involved in a new water project for our community that was financed by

USDA. It will help lead our community into the future for quality water service in Steele. I cannot say enough for USDA and their leadership in helping to keep rural America strong.”

“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 Tresia Webb, Rural Development Manager, at the Kennett Local Office of USDA Rural Development at 704 North Bypass, Kennett, MO 63857 or by calling 573-888-6664.

“Committed to the future of rural communities.”

“USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.”

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