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USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT CELEBRATES FUNDING WITH FRIENDS OF LEADWOOD VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION

Janie Dunning, the Missouri State Director of USDA Rural Development, presented the Friends of Leadwood Volunteer Firefighters Association with a \$195,000 Mock Check on Wednesday June 30. The funds will be used to purchase two fire trucks and life saving equipment for use by the Leadwood Fire Protection District. The fire trucks and emergency equipment will improve the safety services provided by the Fire Department for residents of Leadwood.



Holding the check are Christy F. Mercer, District Director for Senator Claire McCaskill; Janie Dunning, Missouri Rural Development State Director; Charles B. Lewis, Fire Chief; and Heather Garner, Representative for Congresswoman JoAnn Emerson; surrounded by members of the Friends of Leadwood Volunteer Firefighters Association.

“The equipment and vehicle purchases made possible by these funds will do much to ensure the continued safety of those living in the areas served by the Leadwood Voluntary Firefighters Association,” said U.S. Senator Kit Bond. “Congratulations to the local leaders who worked to secure these funds and thank you to the fire association’s volunteers who serve selflessly the people of St. Francois County.”

“Fire safety is a critical issue in Missouri communities,” said U.S. Senator Claire McCaskill. “I’m glad to hear that the USDA is providing competitive grant funds to help the community of Leadwood purchase two new fire trucks and help to improve the safety of their citizens.”

“Leadwood ought to be very proud of the investment in new vehicles and equipment. This funding proves the commitment of USDA Rural Development to the public safety of our Southern Missouri citizens. Often, these vehicles and our first responders’ equipment gets a lot more wear-and-tear than the same resources in urban settings. It’s very important that we recognize the unique challenges of providing these public services in rural areas, and I am glad this is a priority for USDA Rural Development,” said U.S. Representative Jo Ann Emerson.

Dunning said, “I would like to congratulate the Friends of Leadwood Volunteer Firefighters Association for their efforts in upgrading equipment for the Leadwood Fire Protection District to improve the safety services to residents of Leadwood. “This is a great partnership effort when everyone works together for a common goal of meeting the needs of a community.” “This project mirrors USDA, Rural Development’s mission of being committed to the future of rural communities. I want to personally thank everyone that has worked together to make this project a reality. Special thanks are extended to our federal elected officials for making available the federal funds for funding these projects.”

Anyone interested in obtaining information regarding assistance available through USDA Rural Development may visit the homepage at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/mo/> or contact Kevin P. Hinkebein, Area Specialist, at the Farmington Office of USDA Rural Development at 812 Progress Drive, Farmington, MO 63640, 573-756-6413, Ext. 5 or by email at kevin.hinkebein@mo.usda.gov.

“Committed to the future of rural communities.”

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

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