

Contact: Kevin P. Hinkebein (573) 756-6413 Ext. 4

**USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT PRESENTS \$24,693
MOCK CHECK TO CITY OF IRONTON**

Terry A. Luetkemeyer, Area Director, USDA Rural Development, Farmington, MO, presented the City of Ironton with a \$24,693 Mock Check on Wednesday, December 5, 2007. The loan and grant funds will be used to purchase six (6) self-contained breathing apparatuses, six (6) spare air masks, and six (6) spare air tanks to enhance the first-responder capabilities of the fire department and to purchase and install an early warning siren. The City of Ironton is working together with the communities of Pilot Knob and Arcadia to supply siren coverage to the majority of the Arcadia Valley area.

U.S. Senator Clair McCaskill said, "It's so important that we make sure first responders are well-equipped and have the tools they need to do their job. These federal funds will give Ironton the resources they need to better protect their community."

Anita J. Dunning, Acting State Director for USDA Rural Development, said "This kind of assistance mirrors USDA Rural Development's mission and President Bush's initiative of being committed to the future of rural communities. Appreciation is also 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."

Mayor Halket said, "We will be able to equip our firefighters with new personal protective equipment which meets current NFPA standards to provide adequate protection during structural firefighting. The City will be expanding its breathing apparatus units and replacing units which no longer meet current standards. The new storm warning siren replaces a siren at least 50 years old and has standby batteries in case of power failure. In the past, our siren has been vulnerable to power outages and finding parts to repair it has been difficult due to its age."

Mayor Halket also stated, "Within the past two years, USDA has helped us install a new storm warning siren and purchase new firefighting gear. USDA also funded storm warning sirens in the Cities of Arcadia and Pilot Knob, and now sirens for all three cities can be activated simultaneously in the event of severe weather. Their representatives have been very helpful and professional during these projects which have greatly improved public safety; we would not have been able to make these improvements without their financial assistance."



Pictured left to right: Donna Martin, Area Specialist, Rural Development; Heather Garner, Congresswoman Jo Ann Emerson's Office; Terry Luetkemeyer, Area Director, Rural Development; Don McClanahan, Fire Chief, City of Ironton; Shawn Eudy, Ironton Police Department; Kevin Hinkebein, Rural Development Manager; Robert Halket, Mayor, City of Ironton; Raymond Koch, Chief of Police, City of Ironton; Russ Allen, Emergency Management Director, City of Ironton ; and Iron County; Ben Dyer, Senator Claire McCaskill's Office

Anyone interested in obtaining information regarding assistance available through USDA Rural Development may visit the homepage at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/mo/> or can contact Kevin P. Hinkebein, Rural Development Manager, at the Farmington Local Office of USDA Rural Development at, 812 Progress Drive, Farmington, MO 63640 or by calling (573) 756-6413, extension 4.

“Committed to the future of rural communities.”

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

To file a complaint of discrimination write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Ave., S.W., Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD).