



Committed to the future of rural communities.

NEWS RELEASE

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USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT PRESENTS \$7,565 MOCK CHECK TO CITY OF POTOSI

Greg Branum, the Missouri State Director of USDA Rural Development, presented the City of Potosi with a \$7,565 Mock Check on Tuesday, October 9, 2007. The funds will be used to purchase five laptop computers to be used in police vehicles. The laptops will aid the police department when 911 Dispatch needs to immediately locate patrol officers in the field and send vital information in emergency situations. They will also enable communication via text messaging for sharing sensitive information.

U.S. Senator McCaskill said, "Police responding to emergency calls need the necessary tools to do so in as quick and effective a manner as possible. This grant will bring technology upgrades to Potosi police officers that could make a big difference in life-or-death situations."

U.S. Representative Emerson said, "Communication and access to information is essential when our police officers are in the field. This need is even greater in rural areas than urban ones, where our officers have more ground to cover. The USDA Rural Development grant is, to me, an exciting investment in law enforcement and first responder capabilities in our region."

Laptop computers installed in five City of Potosi Police Department vehicles will provide added security not only by permitting greater interoperable capability with 911 Central Dispatch, but also by allowing high-tech, non-radio communication for any criminal element who might be listening on scanners or other devices. Global Positioning Satellite (GPS) systems installed in the laptops will allow 911 Central Dispatch to track the police vehicles in real time and dispatch accordingly," said Mayor T.R. Dudley. "Without the excellent assistance from Cathy Coffman and grant monies from



Mary Pat West, Alderwoman, City of Potosi; Roger Coleman, City Clerk, City of Potosi; Terry Luetkemeyer, Area Director, USDA Rural Development, Farmington, MO; T.R. Dudley, Mayor, City of Potosi; Jeff Graves, Alderman, Ward #1, City of Potosi; Cathy Coffman, Rural Development Manager, USDA Rural Development, Hillsboro, MO; Ben Dyer, District Director, Senator Claire McCaskill's Office, Cape Girardeau, MO; Roy Logsden, Chief of Police, City of Potosi; Heather Garner, Congresswoman Jo Ann Emerson's Office, Farmington, MO; Greg Branum, State Director, USDA Rural Development, Columbia, MO; Donna Martin, Area Specialist, USDA, Rural Development, Farmington, MO

USDA Rural Development, laptop computers for the police department would not be affordable given the budget constraints in an economically distressed area like the City of Potosi,” he added.

“Financing essential equipment is consistent with Rural Development’s mission and President Bush’s commitment to the future of rural communities,” said Branum. “Appreciation is also extended to our federal elected officials for supporting USDA Rural Development. They have been strong proponents of providing essential services to rural Missourians.”

Anyone interested in obtaining regarding assistance available through USDA Rural Development may visit the homepage at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/mo/> or can contact Cathy Coffman, Rural Development Manager, at the Hillsboro Local Office of USDA Rural Development at 10820 Highway 21, Suite 201, Hillsboro, MO 63050 or by calling 636-789-3551.

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