



Committed to the future of rural communities.

NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Kevin P. Hinkebein

(573) 756-6413 Ext. 4

USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT PRESENTS \$22,385 MOCK CHECK TO FRIENDS OF LEADWOOD VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTING ASSOCIATION

Terry A. Luetkemeyer, Area Director, USDA Rural Development, Farmington, MO, presented the Friends of Leadwood Volunteer Firefighters Association with a \$22,385 Mock Check on Wednesday, December 5, 2007. The loan and grant funds will be used to purchase a generator to be used in case of major power outages or disaster situations. This will provide the 1,148 citizens of Leadwood and the surrounding area a heating/cooling shelter when needed.

U.S. Senator Clair McCaskill said, "These federal funds will allow Leadwood to be better prepared to protect its residents in times of emergency. Strong disaster response is incredibly important for our state."

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."

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.



Left to Right: Bill Lewis, Board of Directors; Jerry Barton, President, Board of Directors for the Fire Protection District; Terry Luetkemeyer, Area Director, Rural Development; Kevin Hinkebein, Rural Development Manager; Charles B. Lewis, Fire Chief; Charles S. Lewis, President of Friends of Leadwood Volunteer Firefighting Association; Heather Garner, Congresswoman Jo Ann Emerson's Office; Ben Dyer, Senator Claire McCaskill's Office.

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"USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender."

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