



Committed to the future of rural communities.

NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Catherine M. Walters 573-649-9947

USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROVIDES FUNDS TO THE CITY OF MARSTON

Greg C. Branum, Missouri State Director of USDA Rural Development, announced the funding of \$10,240 to the City of Marston. The funds will be used to purchase and install a warning siren to protect the residents during an emergency or natural situation.

“This past spring we saw the devastating effects of tornadoes and storms in Missouri,” said U.S. Sen. Jim Talent, Member of the Senate Agriculture Committee. “Without question, early warning systems save lives. This funding

will be used to purchase new outdoor emergency warning equipment for the residents of Marston so they are better prepared in the event of an emergency.”

“Our public safety is of paramount importance in rural Missouri, and new early warning sirens are of critical importance. We have seen how New Madrid County's neighbors have suffered at the hands of tornadoes and weather disasters, so this project for the City of Marston emphasizes our commitment to being prepared for these emergencies in the future. I very much appreciate USDA Rural Development for identifying this opportunity to invest in Marston, and I thank U.S. Senators Kit Bond and Jim Talent for their involvement and support,” said U.S. Representative Jo Ann Emerson.



Front row left to right: Rural Development Manager Cathy Walters, Mayor Rebecca Redden, and Police Chief Sydney Williams.

Back row left to right: 2nd. Dist. Comm. Don Day, City Clerk LaShonda Phillips, Sen. Talent's Office Jeff Glenn, Collector Dawn Ferguson, Asst. Fire Chief Don Ferguson, Fire Chief Richard Edwards, Pam Anglin, Rural Development Area Director, Phyllis Minner, Rural Development Area Specialist, and Greg Branum, Rural Development Missouri State Director

“Rural Development is very proud to be able to assist communities in Dunklin County with these important projects,” said Branum. “The City of Marston has made a strong commitment to provide quality service to the residents and these funds will enhance their ability to do so. The ability to provide emergency warnings is a vital necessity for the safety of any community.”

“I, along with the City Council would like to express our appreciation to USDA, Rural Development on the funding of our storm siren,” said Mayor Rebecca Redden. We are very

proud to work with Rural Development. This will be an asset to our City”, stated Mayor Redden.

“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.”

USDA Rural Development’s mission is to deliver programs in a way that will support increasing economic opportunity and improve the quality of life of rural residents. As a venture capital entity, Rural Development provides equity and technical assistance to finance and foster growth in homeownership, business development, and critical community and technology infrastructure. Further information on rural programs is available by visiting USDA’s web site at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/mo/> or can contact Catherine M. Walters, Rural Development Manager at Charleston Local Office, 831 S. Hwy. 105, Charleston, Missouri 63857 or by calling 573-649-9947 ext. 4.

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