

## USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTS THE PORTAGEVILLE RURAL VOLUNTEER FIRE ASSOCIATION IN ACQUIRING A NEW FIRE TRUCK

Anita J. “Janie” Dunning, Missouri Rural Development Acting State Director, presented a \$130,000 Mock Check to the Portageville Rural Volunteer Fire Association on Wednesday, January 16, 2008. The funds provided will be used to purchase a new fire truck to serve the citizens of Portageville.

U.S. Senator Christopher “Kit” Bond said, “The new fire equipment is crucial to the protection of Portageville residents and the firefighters who risk their lives to save them. The local leadership and USDA Rural Development staff are to be commended for their dedication and hard work to make this project a reality.”

The Portageville Rural Volunteer Fire Association was formed in 2002 to provide fire protection to the City of Portageville. They also have a mutual aide agreement with the cities of Gideon and Marston. The existing fire truck is very unreliable and is progressively more expensive to maintain. Due to the age of the truck, replacement parts are very hard to find and, at times, the truck has been pulled by another truck to the site of a fire due to the need for the water in the tank. With the funds provided by Rural Development, the Volunteer Fire Association will now be able to purchase a new, fully equipped fire truck to protect the residents located in the south of New Madrid County.

“If Missouri’s firefighters don’t have the vehicles they need to reach emergencies in rural areas, they can’t do their important job protecting Missouri’s families. I’m pleased that this funding will help the Rural Volunteer Fire Association of Portageville purchase a reliable fire truck,” said U.S. Senator Claire McCaskill.

The funding for the fire truck is provided through USDA Rural Development’s Community Facilities (CF) Program. In addition to the fire truck, the CF loan and grant program also provides funding to help rural communities finance essential community facilities, health



Pictured left to right: Tom Bradley, County Treasurer; Ronnie Simmons, County Assessor; Ronnie Adams, Portageville Police Department; Bill Foster, Fire Chief; Pam Anglin, Rural Development Area Director; George DeLisle, Fire Department; Terry Stevens, New Madrid County Sheriff; Albert "Bud" Sisson, Mayor, City of Portageville; Ervin Gremard, Alderman; Karen Hitchcock, Grant Writer; Janie Dunning, Missouri Rural Development Acting State Director; Ben Dyer, Representing Senator Claire McCaskill; Don Day, Associate Commissioner

services, and the purchase of equipment which will provide vital services to rural residents. Some examples include financing an ambulance, warning sirens, police car, jaws-of-life, rescue vehicle, 911 dispatch center, justice center, abuse center, public safety building, medical clinics and hospitals.

“I’m proud to congratulate the Portageville Rural Volunteer Fire Department on earning this grant to purchase a new fire vehicle. As they work in the interest of public health and safety, our volunteer firefighters deserve equipment they can rely upon. USDA Rural Development is ensuring that those public servants in Portageville, and the citizens who depend upon them, have the quality of fire protection they need,” said U.S. Representative Jo Ann Emerson.

"This kind of assistance mirrors USDA Rural Development’s mission and being committed to the future of rural communities,” said Dunning. “Appreciation is 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.”

USDA Rural Development's mission is to increase economic opportunity and improve the quality of life in rural communities. As a venture capital entity, Rural Development has invested over \$76.8 billion since the beginning of the Bush Administration to provide equity and technical assistance to finance and foster growth in homeownership, business development, and critical community and technology infrastructure.

Further information regarding any of the USDA Rural Development programs is available by contacting the Charleston Rural Development Office at [cathy.walters@mo.usda.gov](mailto:cathy.walters@mo.usda.gov) or by calling 573-649-9947, ext. 4. Rural Development’s web site is: [www.rurdev.usda.gov/mo](http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/mo).

**"Committed to the future of rural communities"**  
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