



NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Jack O. Kearbey (573) 364-2088 Ext. 4

USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROVIDES \$130,000 TO PURCHASE A NEW FIRE TRUCK FOR LOCAL FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

Janie Dunning, the Missouri State Director of USDA Rural Development, hosted an American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Certificate presentation on October 9, 2009 at the Rolla Rural Fire Protection District station located in Rolla, Missouri. Rolla Rural Fire Protection Association, Inc. received \$130,000 to fund a project through the Community Facility Direct Loan and Grant programs with funds coming from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to purchase the new truck.



From left to right—Treasurer Charlie Mitchell; Rural Development Area Manager, Terry Luetkemeyer; Fire Chief Bruce Southard; Jack Kearbey, Rural Development Specialist; Anita J. Dunning, Rural Development State Director; Board member Katherine Davis; Board President William Mason; Board Secretary Doug Gall ; the Recording Secretary; Board Member Harold Bennis; and Geoffrey Heavin, Battalion Chief and Medic.

President Obama signed The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 into law on February 17, 2009. It is designed to jumpstart the nation's economy, create or save millions of jobs and put a down payment on addressing long-neglected challenges so our country can thrive in the 21st century. The Act includes measures to modernize our nation's infrastructure, enhance energy independence, expand educational opportunities, preserve and improve affordable health care, provide tax relief, and protect those in greatest need.

"In times of emergency, it is imperative that first responders have the best resources available," U.S. Senator Claire McCaskill said. "I am pleased this federal funding will allow the Rolla Rural Fire Protection District to purchase a new tanker and pumper truck, which will help the brave firemen and women bring hoses, ladders and other vital equipment to emergency scenes."

“A new fire truck will be a great investment in the Rolla-area residents who help keep our region safe from fires. In Southern Missouri, we have a great forestry resource to protect, and this vehicle is an excellent way to serve the citizens who live and work in the rural areas around Rolla – as well as the forest itself. I am very glad USDA has identified this priority in our congressional district as they continue to find ways to enhance public safety,” said U.S. Representative Jo Ann Emerson.

Dunning said “Funding important projects like this by Rural Development mirrors President Obama’s initiatives for rural America and Rural Development’s commitment 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.”

William Mason, President of Rolla Rural Fire Protection Association, Inc. Board said, “We are pleased to receive the funding that was used to purchase a 2009 Freightliner pumper/tanker and 750 gpm pump. This addition to our fire fighting capabilities was due the loan and grant from USDA and the guidance received from of Jack Kearbey, Area Specialist for the USDA Rural Development office in Rolla. This additional 3000 gallons of water hauling capabilities give the Rolla Rural Fire Department the ability to get over 10,000 gallons to a major fire or structure fire.”

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 Jack O. Kearbey, Area Specialist, at the Rolla Sub-Area Office of USDA Rural Development at 1050 Highway 72 East, Rolla, MO 65401 or by calling (573) 364-2088 Ext. 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).