

## USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT PRESENTS \$16,710 MOCK CHECK TO THE CITY OF STEELE

Greg Batson, Dexter Area Director for USDA Rural Development, presented the City of Steele with a \$16,710 mock check on Tuesday, March 3, 2009. The funds provided to the City were utilized to purchase a replacement vehicle for the Police Department.

U.S. Senator Kit Bond stated, "The new police car will help protect the City of Steele residents and the police officers who risk their lives for this community's safety. I commend the City of Steele community and the USDA Rural Development staff for their hard work in making this project a reality."

"Missouri's police officers are working hard every day to keep our communities safe, and we need to ensure that they have the tools they need," U.S. Senator Claire McCaskill said. "These federal grant funds will help the Steele police department buy new vehicle and will play a significant role in keeping the community safe."

The police department's patrol vehicles are used around the clock to serve the 2,263 residents of Steele and see a lot of road wear. The City of Steele sought assistance from Rural Development to replace a patrol vehicle with over 136,000 miles and in constant need of repairs in excess of what the car was worth. The new vehicle will be used by all officers and will assist the police department in its efforts to protect the residents of the City of Steele.

"Steele will certainly benefit from having a new police vehicle for the protection of and service to the community. In rural areas, we are particularly tough on our vehicles, and this grant will enable our first responders do their jobs efficiently with the proper equipment. USDA Rural Development knows this is a priority for us, and I'm very proud of the City of Steele for obtaining this grant and putting it to good use," said U.S. Representative Jo Ann Emerson.

The funding for the police vehicle is provided through the Economic Impact Initiative (EII) Grants program, a part of the USDA Rural Development's Community Facilities (CF) Program. The EII Grants are specifically targeted to rural communities with extreme unemployment and severe economic depression. In addition to police vehicles, the CF loan and grant program also



Pictured left to right:  
Regina White, City Clerk, City of Steele; Christy Ferrell, Senator McCaskill's Office; Mike Tomlinson, Chief of Police, City of Steele; Greg Batson, Area Director, Rural Development; Mike Davis, Mayor, City of Steele; Tresia Webb, Area Specialist, Rural Development

provides funding to help rural communities finance essential community facilities, health services, and the purchase of equipment which will provide vital services to rural residents. Some examples include financing an ambulance, fire trucks, warning sirens, jaws-of-life, rescue vehicle, 911 dispatch center, justice center, abuse center, public safety building, medical clinics and hospitals.

Mike Davis, Mayor, City of Steele, said, "On behalf of the City of Steele, I would like to thank USDA for their concern for small rural communities. Many small communities struggle with the day to day expenses it takes to run a community. The City of Steele has partnered with USDA over the last six years to help make our city a community that is ready for the future."

"USDA is pleased to be able to provide assistance to the City of Steele for a new police vehicle," said Batson. "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 for rural residents. Rural Development has utilized a variety of programs 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 Kennett Rural Development Office at [tresia.webb@mo.usda.gov](mailto:tresia.webb@mo.usda.gov) or by calling 573-888-2536, 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."**

**"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).