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# NEWS RELEASE

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## USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROVIDES FUNDS TO STOVER RURAL FIRE DEPARTMENT

Anita J. (Janie) Dunning, Missouri Acting State Director for USDA Rural Development presented the Stover Rural Fire Department with a \$188,000 mock check on Tuesday November 27, 2007, at the Fire Station in Stover, Missouri. The funds were awarded to the Stover Rural Fire Department to purchase Fire Trucks and equipment which is already in operation.



President James Schwermer accepted the check on behalf of Stover Rural Fire Department. The new equipment will help the fire department continue quality fire protection to their service area.

“Having a well-equipped fire department saves lives in an emergency situation,” said U.S. Senator Claire McCaskill. “Newer and better fire trucks will help the Stover Rural Fire Department respond more quickly to emergencies.”

Congressman Ike Skelton (D-MO) congratulates the Stover Rural Fire Department, who will receive an \$188,000 loan to purchase fire trucks. “I am proud that the Stover Rural Fire Department will receive this loan. The firefighters at the Stover Rural Fire Department continuously risk their lives to ensure the safety of others. I am pleased that such a worthy group of firefighters will have the equipment to assist residents when a fire strikes. “Each year, we witness the devastating effects of fires that sweep through our homes and businesses. Through this loan, the firefighters can ensure higher standards of public and firefighters safety,” Skelton said.

“USDA is happy to be able to assist Stover Rural Fire Department with a new fire truck and equipment,” 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.”

Other officials attending from USDA were: Kelly Gregory Area Director from Clinton, and Michael Fitzgerald, Rural Development Manager, Eldon, MO.

Community Facilities assistance can be by direct loans, grants, or guaranteed loans through a conventional lender to help communities meet the basic needs of its citizens, as well as build a stronger, more vibrant community. The funds are available to public entities such as municipalities, counties, special purpose districts, and non-profit corporations which meet specific criteria.

Anyone seeking more information about the Rural Development rural housing programs may visit the homepage at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/mo/> or by contacting Michael Fitzgerald, Rural Development Manager, 101 Industrial Park Roadway , Eldon, Missouri, 65026, or calling 573-392-5667.

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