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NEWS RELEASE

USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROVIDES TECUMSEH VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT \$16,500 FOR FIRE TRUCK

U. S. Representative Jo Ann Emerson joined USDA Rural Development State Director, Morris Westfall, at the Tecumseh Volunteer Fire Station on Tuesday, October 14 to present a Mock Check in the amount of \$16,500 to the Tecumseh Volunteer Fire Department. The Rural Development Community Facilities Economic Impact Initiative Grant will help finance the purchase of a pumper fire truck for the local volunteer fire department. The grant was combined with \$13,500 matching funds raised by our Volunteer Fire Department Lady's Auxiliary.

“Our first responders put their lives on the line to protect our communities and it is critical that we provide them the equipment they need to do their jobs more safely,” said U.S. Senator Kit Bond. “I commend the USDA and the Tecumseh community leadership for purchasing this fire pumper truck for our volunteer firefighters.”

“Our first responders rely on USDA Rural Development’s interest and investment in keeping us safe in rural communities. A fire truck in Tecumseh represents a substantial tool for fire protection right in our own homes. This purchase will be all the more special because of the tremendous local effort to raise more than \$13,000 in matching funds. I’m very proud of the partnership between our community and the first responders who serve us so well,” said U.S. Representative Jo Ann Emerson.

Board President Herbert Nelson expressed his appreciation, “Tecumseh Volunteer Fire Department would like to thank Rural Development for these grant funds and extend special thanks to Sue Ory, President; Connie Daugherty, Secretary; and Julie Short, Treasurer; of our Lady’s Auxiliary



From left: Chief Paul Pyles; firefighters Robert Ingalsbe, Jack Dougherty and Bill Short; auxiliary member Julia Short; firefighters Hubert Nelson and Jerry Lash; Stacy Burks, District Director for U.S. Senator Kit Bond(R-Mexico, Mo); auxiliary member Carole Davis; David Rauch, District Director representing U.S. Senator Claire McCaskill (D-Lebanon, Mo.); Congresswoman Jo Ann Emerson; auxiliary member Sue Ory; USDA State Director Morris Westfall; USDA Area Specialist Danny Campbell of West Plains; USDA Area Director Mark Hultgren; and firefighter Jack Ory. Standing on the truck, from left: Auxiliary members Jerry Ann Lash and Beth Nicholson. (Quill/McEnt

for the auxiliary's fund raising activities and dedicated support to our department and the community. The Lady's Auxiliary's monthly fund raising meal supplements the operation of our fire department. The Tecumseh citizens depend on our volunteer fire department for their safety and protection of their property. This pumper fire truck will certainly aid their efforts when providing service for the 2,568 citizens of our rural community now and in the future."

Westfall said, "This kind of assistance mirrors USDA Rural Development's mission and President Bush's initiative of being committed to the future of rural communities. Special thanks are extended to our federal elected officials including U.S. Senators Kit Bond and Claire McCaskill plus U.S. Representative Jo Ann Emerson for making available federal monies for funding this kind of project providing essential services for rural Missouri."

Anyone seeking more information about this or any other USDA Rural Development program may visit the homepage at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/mo/> or by contacting Daniel Campbell, Area Specialist, at 3210 Hoover Drive, West Plains, MO 65775-3527 or by calling (417) 256-7117 extension 4 or by email to daniel.campbell@mo.usda.gov.

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