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## **USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROVIDES \$6,265 TO CITY OF VANDALIA FOR FIRE EQUIPMENT**

On September 25, 2007, Greg Branum, Missouri State Director for USDA Rural Development, presented the City of Vandalia with a mock check for \$6,265 to assist in the purchase of fire equipment. These funds are provided through a Community Facility grant from Rural Development.

Rural Development funds will be used towards purchasing fire equipment including hand held radios, Scott bottles (compressed air tanks), and self-contained breathing apparatus. This will greatly improve the safety of the firefighters serving the rural population of 2,529 in the City of Vandalia, Missouri.

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

"This grant will help ensure that Vandalia is prepared for future fire emergencies," U.S. Senator Claire McCaskill said. "I'm so pleased that federal dollars will go to help protect the safety of Missouri residents."

"One of the most important elements in homeland security is ensuring that our first responders have the necessary resources to complete the many tasks they are asked to perform," said Congressman Kenny Hulshof (MO-09). "I am grateful to the USDA Rural Development for supporting the firefighters in Vandalia."



Pictured left to right – Alan Winders, Vandalia City Administrator; Carolyn Wisecarver, Pike County Development Authority; Jacque Barker, USDA Rural Development; Jill Strauther; Roger Woodward, City of Vandalia; Charlie Scrogin, Vandalia Fire Department Chief; Tony Laird, Chief of Police, Vandalia; Bill Hicks, Asst. Chief, Vandalia Fire Department; Jill Riegel, for Congressman Hulshof; Llona Weiss, Field Representative for Senator McCaskill; Brenda Scrogin; Mick Davis, Lt. Vandalia Fire Department; Aaron Rentfro, City of Vandalia; Greg Branum, USDA Rural Development State Director - Missouri

“This kind of assistance mirrors USDA Rural Development’s mission and President Bush’s initiative of being committed to the future of rural communities,” said Branum. “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 Missouri.”

USDA Rural Development’s mission is to deliver programs in a way that will support increasing economic opportunity and improve the quality of life of rural residents. As a venture capital entity, Rural Development provides equity and technical assistance to financed and foster growth in homeownership, business development, and critical community and technology infrastructure. Further information on Rural Development programs is available by visiting USDA’s web site at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/mo/> or by contacting Jacqueline Barker at the Mexico USDA Service Center at 4617 S. Clark, Mexico, MO 65265 or by calling 573-581-4177 ext 4.

**“Committed to the future of rural communities.”**

**“USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.”**

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