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## USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT PRESENTS MOCK CHECK TO WASHINGTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

U.S. Representative Jo Ann Emerson joined Greg Branum, the Missouri State Director of USDA Rural Development, to present the Washington County Sheriff's Department with a \$4,620 Mock Check on Friday, November 3, 2006. The funds will be used to purchase two thermal imaging units to assist the Department in responding to nighttime accidents and investigations.



Left to Right: Robert E. Reed, Presiding Commissioner; Donna Martin, USDA RD Area Specialist, Farmington; State Representative Jo Ann Emerson; Sheriff Kevin Schroeder; Todd Moyers, 1st District Commissioner; Cathy Coffman, USDA Manager, Hillsboro; Randy O'Neail, 2nd District Commissioner; Terry Luetkemeyer, USDA Area Manager, Farmington; and Greg Branum, USDA, RD State Director.

U.S. Representative Emerson said, "These funds will be a tremendous asset to the Washington County Sheriff's Office as they acquire the new equipment to handle nighttime operations and investigations. We have a great responsibility to ensure that our rural first responders have the tools and technologies to best serve the public. I am glad USDA Rural Development has identified this opportunity to invest in the safety and capability of the Washington County Sheriff's Office, and I thank our U.S. Senators, Kit Bond and Jim Talent, for their strong support."

Branum said. "Funding important projects like this by Rural Development mirrors President Bush's initiatives for rural American and Rural Development's commitment to the future of rural communities. He added, "Appreciation is also extended to U.S. Senators "Kit" Bond and Jim Talent and U.S. Representative Jo Ann Emerson for supporting USDA Rural Development. They have been strong proponents of providing essential services to rural Missourians."

"The thermal imagers will be an awesome addition to our tool box. They will assist us in our everyday operation, as well as in special needs situations such as search and rescue, surveillance, etc. We will no longer be forced to improvise in our operations either in the daylight or dark. We will be able to deploy the same technology in our region that is employed in Iraq by our troops", stated Washington County Sheriff, Kevin Schroeder.

Anyone interested in obtaining regarding assistance available through USDA Rural Development may visit the homepage at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/mo/> or can contact Cathy Coffman, Rural Development Manager, at the Hillsboro Local Office of USDA Rural Development at 10820 Highway 21, Suite 201, Hillsboro, MO 63050 or by calling 636-789-3551, Ext. 4.

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

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