



NEWS RELEASE

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WAYLAND FIRE DEPARTMENT RECEIVES USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT FUNDING

Morris Westfall, Missouri State Director for USDA Rural Development, announced the awarding of \$30,000 to Wayland Volunteer Fire Protection Association, Inc. and presented a Mock Check to Chairman Larry Pullins in a ceremony November 20, 2008 at the fire station.

USDA Rural Development provided a Community Facility loan of \$25,500 and a grant of \$4,500 to purchase a tanker truck with equipment. The updated truck will allow the fire department to provide safer fire fighting, along with enhancing fire fighting capabilities, as their existing tanker went out of service due to mechanical problems.

"Volunteer fire fighters are truly heroes of our communities," U.S. Senator Claire McCaskill said. "I'm pleased the Wayland Volunteer Fire Protection Association was awarded these federal dollars for essential equipment in order to provide better protection for the communities."

"I am pleased to partner with USDA Rural Development and the Wayland Volunteer Fire Protection Association for this important funding," Congressman Kenny Hulshof said. "Providing emergency rescue and fire fighting equipment is so important for our rural towns and cities, and this is a great example of meeting that need. I appreciate the work done by officials with USDA Rural Development and the Wayland Volunteer Fire Protection Association to make this valuable project a reality."

Chairman Larry Pullins stated, "On behalf of the Board of Directors and the membership of the Wayland Volunteer Fire Protection Association, I would like to thank the USDA Rural Development organization for their support and assistance in funding equipment needed to meet our fire protection goals. Without the Grant / Low Interest Loan support provided through USDA, we would not have been able to afford the recently purchased tanker truck. This truck was needed to replace an older unit that was taken out of service due to extensive mechanical



Cheryl Elliott, Rural Development Specialist; Wes Shoemyer, MO State Senator; Morris Westfall, Rural Development State Director; Scott Callicott, representing Congressman Kenny Hulshof; Jack Riter and Carole Riter, Wayland Fire members.

problems. The cost to purchase and equip this tanker would have been well beyond our normal budget.”

“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 Westfall. “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.”

The funds are part of the Community Facilities Program, which provides grants and loans to assist in the development of essential community facilities in rural areas and towns up to 20,000 in population.

Anyone seeking more information about this or any other USDA Rural Development programs may visit the homepage at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/mo/> or by contacting Cheryl Elliott, Area Specialist, 17623 Hwy 19, New London, MO 63459, or by email to cheryl.elliott@mo.usda.gov or by calling (573) 985-7211 extension 4.

"Committed to the future of rural communities."

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