



Committed to the future of rural communities.

NEWS RELEASE

USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROVIDES FUNDING FOR FIRE TRUCK TO SERVE WYATT & WILSON CITY

"Nearly 530 rural residents to benefit from service"

On Friday, August 31, 2007, Missouri Rural Development State Director Greg Branum, along with local Rural Development staff, presented the Wyatt Community Development Corporation with a mock check in the amount of \$81,720 to purchase a fire truck and equipment for use by the Wyatt Volunteer Fire Department.

"It is essential that federal dollars continue to come back to our state in a way that helps average Missourians while maintaining fiscal responsibility," said U.S. Senator Claire McCaskill. "This funding will make sure the residents of Wyatt have the updated fire equipment they need."

U.S. Representative Jo Ann Emerson stated, "Public safety is a paramount concern in our Southern Missouri communities, and in Wyatt our volunteer firefighters put their lives on the line to protect people and property. New equipment and a new truck are going to make a tremendous difference to the residents of Wyatt and the surrounding area. I commend them for seeking and winning this grant, which will greatly benefit Southern Missouri and the fire service community."

In January of 2007, the City of Wyatt was inspected by the Insurance Services Offices, Inc. and received a proposed rating that would significantly raise insurance premiums for the residents. The City was instructed to obtain a serviceable fire truck and hoses by January, 2008, in order to avoid the new rating. The Wyatt Community Development Corporation, a non-profit organization, was formed in order to apply for funding through USDA Rural Development.

Dennis Hodges, Wyatt Community Development Corporation President, stated, "We are grateful to USDA Rural Development for the assistance that has been provided to the residents of our community. Rural Development has participated in several projects with Wyatt and the surrounding communities and it has always been a pleasure to work with the staff."

"The intent of the CF program is to assist rural communities with financial packages to enhance the quality of life for rural Missourians," Greg Branum stated. "Missouri was very fortunate last year to receive \$788,943 in funds to assist thirty communities with improvements in emergency vehicles, rescue equipment, emergency warning systems and essential community centers. We look forward to helping even more this year."

The funding for the fire truck is provided through USDA Rural Development's Community Facilities (CF) Program in the combination of a grant for \$61,280 and low-interest loan in the amount of \$20,440. In



Pictured holding mock check (left to right):

Richard Conn, Fire Chief; Dennis Hodges, President, Wyatt Community Development Corporation; Bill Franklin, Board Member, Wyatt Community Development Corporation; Llula Clark, Clerk

Back left to right:

Cathy Walters, Rural Development Manager; Phyllis Minner, Area Specialist; Pam Anglin, Area Director; David Stephens, Secretary/Treasurer, Wyatt Community Development Corporation; Jimmy Sparks, Director of Public Works; Don Williams, Mayor; Bob Dugan, Board Member, Wyatt Community Development Corporation

addition to fire trucks and equipment, the CF loan and grant program also provides financing to help rural communities finance essential community facilities, health services, and the purchase of equipment which will provide vital services to rural residents. Some examples include financing an ambulance, warning sirens, police car, jaws-of-life, rescue vehicle, 911 dispatch center, justice center, abuse center, public safety building, medical clinics and hospitals.

USDA Rural Development's mission is to increase economic opportunity and improve the quality of life in rural communities. As a venture capital entity, Rural Development has invested over \$76.8 billion since the beginning of the Bush Administration to provide equity and technical assistance to finance and foster growth in homeownership, business development, and critical community and technology infrastructure.

Further information regarding any of the USDA Rural Development programs is available by contacting the Charleston Rural Development Office at cathy.walters@mo.usda.gov or by calling 573-649-9947, ext. 4. Rural Development's web site is: www.rurdev.usda.gov/mo.

"Committed to the future of rural communities."

"USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender."

To file a complaint of discrimination write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Ave., S.W., Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD).