



Committed to the future of rural communities.

NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Cathy Coffman (636) 789-3551 Ext. 4

USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT PRESENTS MOCK CHECK TO IRONDALE CITIZENS FIRE GROUP, INC.

Greg Branum, the Missouri State Director of USDA Rural Development, presented Irondale Citizens Fire Group, Inc. with a \$74,818 Mock Check on Friday, November 3, 2006. The funds will be used for construction of a new six-truck bay firehouse.

U.S. Representative Emerson said, "We have a great responsibility to ensure that our rural first responders have the resources and tools to do their jobs safely and effectively. A new fire house for Irondale is a tremendous project that will not only improve the quality of our firefighters' response to emergencies, but will also constitute a source of pride for the residents of Irondale. I appreciate USDA Rural Development's hard work in identifying this opportunity to invest in the community of Irondale, and I thank our U.S. Senators, Kid Bond and Jim Talent, for their unwavering support for Rural Development and for all of our rural first responders. 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."



(Right to Left-Front Row): Greg Branum, USDA RD State Director; Randy O'Neil, 1st District Commissioner; Glenn Province, Assistant District Fire Chief; Cathy Coffman, USDA RD Manager, Hillsboro; Donna Martin, USDA RD Area Specialist, Farmington; Bill Byers, Fire Chief; Gene Smith, Board of Directors Secretary; Karen Teal, Board of Directors Treasurer; (Right to Left-Back Row) Tony Miano, Architect, Taylor Engineering, Terry Luetkemeyer, USDA RD Area Manager, Farmington; Amber Morris, Firefighter; Ron Kennon, Firefighter.

"Funding important projects like this by Rural Development mirrors President Bush's initiatives for rural America and Rural Development's commitment to the future of rural communities," Branum said. 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."

Bill Byers, Chief of the Irondale Fire District, recently expressed the Fire District's appreciation to USDA Rural Development for the funds their community will be receiving for a new firehouse in Irondale. He said they had not only outgrown their existing firehouse, but that the present location has no room left for development. "The new fire station will not only give us more space for our equipment and provide a better facility for training, but it will also be used for a disaster relief center, as well", the Chief said.

Anyone interested in obtaining assistance available through USDA Rural Development may visit the homepage at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/mo/> or can contact Kevin

Hinkebein, Rural Development Manager, at the Farmington Local Office of USDA Rural Development at 812 Progress Drive, Farmington, MO 63640 or by calling 573-756-6413, Ext. 4.

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