

NEWS RELEASE



United States Department of Agriculture
Rural Development

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USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROVIDES FUNDS FOR NEW FIREFIGHTING EQUIPMENT

A \$11,550 mock check from USDA Rural Development was presented to Hartville Rural Fire Protection Association in a ceremony held Thursday, July 10, at the main fire station. Funds will be used to purchase essential new equipment and make improvements to existing equipment.

Funding of this \$13,000 undertaking is from a \$7,000 low interest loan and a \$4,550 grant, both from USDA-Rural Development. Hartville Rural Fire Protection Association, Inc. and Laclede Electric Trust, through Operation Round Up, contributed the additional \$1,450 of funds for the project.

These monies will be used to purchase additional sets of self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) for fire fighter protection and for renovation of an existing tanker truck. Renovation of the truck will consist of adding needed pumps and valves, complete new paint, plus safety/emergency lighting.

This fire association was organized in 1996 and currently has over 400 members. The primary service area is central Wright County

Gregory C. Branum, Missouri State Director for USDA Rural Development, said, "I am pleased that Rural Development can provide a grant and a low interest loan for these improvements. One hopes they never have to use the service but having dependable fire protection is important to all members in the area".

Allen Dickinson, Board President, said, "We are excited about the purchase of the new equipment. This improves our ability to better serve our members and protect the firefighters. I want to thank all the volunteers and members that have supported the purchase of this improved equipment."

Anyone seeking more information on the Community Facility Program or other USDA Rural Development programs may visit the Web site at (<http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/mo/>) or by contacting Mike Monger, Community Development Manager; at 1242 Deadra Drive, Lebanon, MO or by calling 417-532-5741.