

NEWS RELEASE



United States Department of Agriculture
Rural Development

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Buffalo Rural Fire Department Receives Grant for Rescue Equipment



Congressman Ike Skelton presented a Mock Check in the amount of \$9,326 to Bobby Carver, President of the Buffalo Rural Fire Department on Wednesday, July 30, 2003. Funds were used to purchase emergency rescue equipment including a jaws of life, power unit, and air bag rescue system to be housed at the Charity Substation. A demonstration of the new equipment was provided to those in attendance.

Special recognition was given to Gary Stover of the Empire District Electric Company for donation of a 1989 Ford F350 truck to be used as a fire/rescue unit and housed at the Charity Substation. Randy Cruthers and

Eric Jack were present representing Empire District Electric Company. Jeff Pearl with Earl Scheib PCI Distributing, Springfield MO, was recognized for their donation of paint for the truck. The donated truck replaces a 1974 International $\frac{3}{4}$ ton pickup.

“It is heartwarming to know federal tax dollars are being used to assist with providing essential life-saving equipment needs in our rural towns and counties,” said Gregory C. Branum, Missouri State Director for USDA Rural Development. “It is also great to see the local community come together with fund raisers and donations all working together for a common goal.”

Branum said, “Rural Development funded 75% of the equipment purchased through the Community Facility Fire & Rescue Grant Program. The fire department funded the remaining 25%. This joint venture is an excellent example of cooperation by all partners working together for the good of the community.”

Anyone seeking more information about USDA Rural Development or any of the programs, may visit the homepage at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/mo/> or by contacting Vickie V. Umfleet, Rural Development Specialist, 688 S. State Hwy B, Suite 400, Springfield MO 65802, by calling (417) 831-5246 ext 5 or contacting any of the Missouri USDA Rural Development offices.