



# NEWS RELEASE

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## USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROVIDES LOAN TO SAC-OSAGE SPECIAL FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT FOUNDATION

The United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development presented the Sac-Osage Special Fire Protection District Foundation with a \$65,000 mock check on Thursday, September 28, 2006 at the Sac-Osage Special Fire Protection Department building in Osceola, MO. The funds represent a community facility loan made by USDA Rural Development for the purchase of the present Fire Department building by Sac-Osage Special Fire Protection District Foundation. The building is then leased back to the Fire Department on a long-term lease agreement.



U.S. Congressman Ike Skelton said, "Ensuring that rural communities have the resources to provide needed emergency services for local citizens is an ongoing challenge. I want to thank the staff of USDA Rural Development for working with the Sac-Osage Special Fire Protection District Foundation to make it possible to purchase a fire station building with the help of a Community Facility Loan."

Gregory C. Branum, Missouri State Director for USDA Rural Development, said, "This kind of assistance mirrors USDA Rural Development's mission and President Bush's initiative of being committed to the future of rural communities." Other officials attending from USDA were: Kelly Gregory, Area Director from Clinton; Tim Rickabaugh, Area Specialist, Clinton; Lois East, Area Specialist, Clinton and Ed Mason, Rural Development Manager, Butler.

Representing the Sac-Osage Special Fire Protection District Foundation were: President Mike Mullaney, Board Members Rob Belisle, Greg Mangum, Bill Neimeier, Mario Piccoli, Doug Wisner, Mike Yazell, and Earle Zeiler, along with the Foundation's attorney, J.D. Baker.

"Special thanks are extended to our federal elected officials including U.S. Senators "Kit" Bond and Jim Talent plus U.S. Representative Ike Skelton for supporting USDA Rural Development," Branum added. "They have been strong proponents for the necessary funding for essential services for rural Missourians."

Community Facilities assistance can be by direct loans, grants, or guaranteed loans through a conventional lender to help communities meet the basic needs of its citizens, as well as build a stronger, more vibrant community. The funds are available to public entities such as municipalities, counties, special purpose districts, and non-profit corporations which meet specific criteria.

For more information on USDA Rural Development programs, you may visit the web site at [www.rurdev.usda.gov/mo](http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/mo) or contact the local office at 625 W. Nursery, Butler, MO 64730 or calling 660-679-6114.

**“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 Avenue, S.W., Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (800)795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD).