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NEWS RELEASE

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SCHNEIDER: USDA AND WEST FARGO TEAM TO BUILD FIRE STATION

Rural Development, local leaders to break ground on new \$1.75 million project

WEST FARGO, July 13, 2010 – USDA Rural Development State Director Jasper Schneider joins Mayor Rich Mattern and Fire Chief Roy Schatschneider today at a groundbreaking ceremony for a new Fire Station on the south side of West Fargo.

West Fargo has experienced tremendous growth in recent years as housing and commercial developments expand to the south. With the current fire department on the other side of town, the response time for fire and police services is increased, making the need for an additional facility even greater.

“Seconds matter in emergency situations and the new facility will enhance West Fargo’s ability to keep residents safe as the city continues to grow,” Schneider said. “Public safety is a top priority and today’s financing shows an investment in West Fargo’s future.”

The project is made possible with a \$1.5 million direct loan through USDA Rural Development’s Community Facilities Program. The direct loan to the West Fargo Fire Department has a term of 30 years and an interest rate of 4%.

“We are extremely pleased with the financing options and the assistance we received to make this project happen,” Fire Chief Roy Schatschneider said. “USDA Rural Development understands the need to provide emergency services to the citizens and business owners of West Fargo, now and well into the future.”

The construction of the 9,000 square foot facility will start in July and is expected to be completed by late February 2011. Total cost of the project is estimated at \$1,750,000 with the applicant’s contribution of \$250,000.



Officials including Jasper Schneider, USDA Rural Development State Director, Fire Chief Roy Schatschneider, Chief of Police Arland Rasmussen and Mayor Rich Mattern pose with gold-painted shovels bearing a fire emblem during a groundbreaking ceremony.



Architectural rendering of new south side fire station.

The volunteer West Fargo Fire Department, a non-profit corporation, has been operating the current facility since 1941. The City of West Fargo has expanded rapidly since the year 2000 and development south of I-94 has offered new challenges to the Fire Department.

In order to reduce their response times, the Fire Department has acquired property located at the intersection of 29th Avenue and Fifth Street West and

has developed plans to build an additional fire station. The building will include five truck bays, offices and space for future 24 hour staffing. The West Fargo Police Department will also be utilizing the new Fire Department building as a substation, occupying one bay and some of the office and storage areas.

Further information on rural programs is available at a local USDA Rural Development office or by visiting USDA Rural Development's web site at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov>

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