



# NEWS RELEASE

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## **Rural Fire District No. 1 In Linn County Selected For American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Funds** *New Fire Station To Provide Much Needed Space*

**Topeka** — USDA Rural Development Acting State Director Darla Buckman congratulated Rural Fire District No. 1 in Linn County as being one of the recipients announced today by Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack as part of the \$58.1 million in community facilities projects that are being funded immediately through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act that President Obama signed into law in February.

This project will construct a new fire station for the Rural Fire District No. 1 which will provide space to house the recently acquired new fire truck, existing vehicles, and equipment in one location. This will reduce the response time of the volunteers to emergency situations, thus improving the safety of the district's approximately 948 residents. It will also include space for storage and an area for maintenance of vehicles and equipment. The \$70,000 USDA Rural Development grant will be leveraged with a \$204,910 Kansas Community Development Block Grant, and an applicant's contribution of \$114,910.

"Rural communities are important to the lifeblood of our country and the Obama Administration is committed to keeping them strong by providing Recovery Act funding for facilities such as day care centers, public buildings and community centers that improve the quality of life in these communities," Vilsack said.

Altogether, USDA Rural Development has announced nearly \$179.6 million in Recovery Act funding for community facility projects to date. In addition to the \$58.1 million that USDA Rural Development is providing to fund the 104 projects announced today, recipients will invest \$41.2 million from other sources.

The funding announced today is being provided through USDA Rural Development's Community Facilities program, which helps finance essential community facilities for public use in rural areas. These facilities include child care centers, hospitals, medical clinics, assisted-living facilities, fire and rescue stations, police stations, community centers, public buildings and transportation. Through this program, USDA ensures that such facilities are available to all rural residents. Public bodies, non-profit organizations and recognized Indian tribes are eligible to apply for funding.

For additional information regarding USDA Rural Development and its programs, log onto the Agency's website at [www.rurdev.usda.gov/ks](http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/ks) or call the Agency's state office at 785-271-2700.

**USDA Rural Development – Committed to the Future of Rural Communities.**

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