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## **CATAHOULA PARISH GAINS THREE PATROL CARS AND NEW K9 DEPUTY Federal Grant Helps Fight Crime in Catahoula Parish**

HARRISONBURG, October 28, 2008 – Congressman Rodney Alexander joined USDA Rural Development Community Programs Director Richard Hoffpauir in Harrisonburg today to present the keys for three new patrol vehicles to Sheriff James Kelly and meet Catahoula’s newest K9 Deputy, Max.

A \$50,000 USDA Rural Development grant was awarded to the Catahoula Parish Law Enforcement District in April 2008 for the patrol cars and Max.

“Rural areas face many challenges in law enforcement—and one big challenge is the lack of funding for needed equipment,” said Hoffpauir. “USDA Rural Development helps rural law enforcement agencies meet that challenge.”

The grant funds for the three patrol cars and K9 were awarded through USDA Rural Development’s Community Facilities Program. This program offers grants, loans, and loan guarantees to public entities, such as municipalities, parishes, and special purpose districts, as well as to non-profit corporations and tribal governments, to develop essential community facilities in rural areas and towns of up to 20,000 in population.

Deputies Robert Wiley, Paul Jackson, and Cedric Martin were on hand during ceremonies to take possession of the new vehicles. Deputy Wiley is Catahoula Parish’s K9 Trainer/Officer, and Max will be his new K9 partner.

USDA Rural Development provides a full range of rural development credit services in rural Louisiana. The USDA Rural Development State Office is located at 3727 Government Street, Alexandria, Louisiana 71302, telephone (318) 473-7921. There are four area offices located throughout the state to serve Louisiana residents. Further information on USDA Rural Development’s loan and grant programs can be obtained by visiting USDA Rural Development’s web site at: <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov>. USDA Rural Development is an equal opportunity lender, provider, and employer. Complaints of discrimination should be sent to: USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Washington, DC 20250-9140.

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