



NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Kevin Hinkebein 573-756-6413

USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT AWARDS GRANT TO LEADWOOD FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

Greg C. Branum, Missouri State Director of USDA Rural Development, presented a \$35,063 Mock Check to the Leadwood Fire District, on November 21, 2005. \$25,548 will be used to purchase materials to complete the construction on the new Fire Station Building. Rural Development funds will be leveraged with a \$295,210 Community Development Block Grant funds. Rural Development approved a grant of \$9,515 to purchase equipment for the training center. The equipment will be utilized by the District to train fire fighters and emergency rescue personnel. In addition, the building will be used for fire protection and safety training.

“Missouri’s first responders are our first line of defense in a local emergency,” said Senator Jim Talent. “I am absolutely committed to providing our firefighters with the tools they need to save lives and minimize danger for Missourians. The government should do a few things and do them well and that includes providing assistance for our local fire departments.”

“In rural Missouri, public safety is a major concern. Luckily, men and women in our communities volunteer for and support our rural firefighters and first responders. This grant is an opportunity to greatly enhance public safety and service in Leadwood,” said U.S. Representative Jo Ann Emerson. “The U.S. Department of Agriculture and Rural Development have done a wonderful job to identify this opportunity and work with local officials to make it a reality.”

“Rural Development is very proud to provide assistance for this important project,” said Branum. “President Bush has made first responders a priority for federal funds and I am pleased that we were able to help carry his priorities for such a worthwhile purpose.”

Mayor Jim Stallman said, “These grants are a lifesaver to these small towns that do not have funds to purchase materials and equipment for their firehouses.”

“Funding important projects like this by Rural Development mirrors President Bush’s initiative of being committed to the future of rural communities,” Branum added. “Appreciation is also extended to U.S. Senators “Kit” Bond and Jim Talent and U.S. Representative Jo Ann Emerson for supporting USDA Rural Development. They have been strong proponents for the necessary funding for essential services for rural Missourians.”

USDA Rural Development’s mission is to deliver programs in a way that will support increasing economic opportunity and improve the quality of life of rural residents. As a venture capital entity, Rural Development provides equity and technical assistance to finance and foster growth in homeownership, business development, and critical community and technology infrastructure. Further information on rural programs is available by visiting USDA’s web



Front row: Donna Martin, Bill Lewis, Board Member, Charles Lewis, Fire Chief, Jerry Barton, Board Member, and Greg Branum
Back row: Terry Leutkemeyer, Kevin Hinkebein, Jeff Sancoucie, Fireman, Kevin Lewis, Board Member, Charles Lewis, Board Member, and Mike Hakey, Board Member

site at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/mo/> or contact Kevin Hinkebein, Rural Development Manager, at 812 Progress Dr. Farmington, Missouri 63640 or by calling (573)-756-6413 extension 4.

“Committed to the future of rural communities.”

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