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Rural Development

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NEWS RELEASE

USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROVIDES \$18,175 GRANT TO CITY OF ALTON FOR STORM WARNING SIRENS

Morris Westfall, Missouri State Director of USDA Rural Development presented a Mock Check to the City of Alton in the amount of \$18,175 on Monday, May 5. The Rural Development Community Facilities Grant funds coupled with \$6,825 from the City will finance the \$25,000 to purchase two storm warning sirens to help protect Alton's 668 residents. Mayor Richard Haigwood accepted the mock check on behalf of the city.

"I'm pleased to report this substantial investment in the safety and well-being of the people in Alton and Oregon County who will benefit from the new warning sirens. We have seen every kind of natural disaster I can fathom so far this year: ice, flooding, and earthquakes. I hope we have earned a respite from severe weather by now, but it is wise of Alton and USDA Rural Development to make this investment nevertheless. I appreciate their attention to public safety issues in the Eighth Congressional District and their advocacy for solutions," said U.S. Representative Jo Ann Emerson.

Mayor Richard Haigwood expressed his appreciation, "The city would like to thank Rural Development for the Community Facility (CF) Grant. These funds will allow us to purchase two storm sirens which will expand the service area for warnings in our community. We appreciate having this added protection during severe weather to ensure advance warning for our residents."

"This kind of assistance mirrors USDA Rural Development's mission and President Bush's initiative of being committed to the future of rural communities," said Westfall. "Appreciation is extended to our federal elected officials for supporting USDA Rural Development. They have been strong proponents for the necessary funding for essential services for rural Missourians."



Pictured Left to Right: Tim Rickabaugh, Springfield Area Director for Rural Development; Morris Westfall, Missouri State Director for Rural Development; Danny Campbell, Area Specialist; Richard Haigwood, Mayor; Dina Slaughter, Clerk; Sam Barton, Emergency Management Director

Anyone seeking more information about this or any other USDA Rural Development program may visit the homepage at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/mo/> or by contacting Danny Campbell, Area Specialist, at 3210 Hoover Drive, West Plains, MO 65775-3527 or by calling (417) 256-7117 extension 4 or by email to daniel.campbell@mo.usda.gov.

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