

## USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTS CLARKTON'S VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT IN OBTAINING NEEDED EQUIPMENT

Anita J. "Janie" Dunning, Missouri Rural Development Acting State Director, presented a \$6,243 Mock Check to the City of Clarkton on Wednesday, January 16, 2008. The funds provided will be used to purchase needed firefighting equipment for the City's volunteer fire department.

U.S. Senator Christopher "Kit" Bond said, "The new fire equipment is crucial to the protection of Clarkton residents and the firefighters who risk their lives to save them. The local leadership and USDA Rural Development staff are to be commended for their dedication and hard work to make this project a reality."

The Clarkton Fire Department is comprised of 16 active, highly skilled firefighters knowledgeable in the techniques and life-saving tactics to serve and protect their fire protection jurisdiction. Without the proper firefighting equipment to contain and maintain an emergency situation, the volunteers are not able to implement their trained knowledge and experience to uphold the duties of a volunteer firefighter/first responder in the Clarkton Community. With the funding from Rural Development, the fire department plans to purchase equipment consisting of a generator, air packs, fire hose & nozzles, ladder and saws. The added equipment will greatly increase the effectiveness of the fire department to protect the public which they serve and assist on a daily basis.

"Firefighters work hard to protect Missouri families and it is important that they have the tools to do the job right. I'm so pleased that the Clarkton Fire Department will be able to get the equipment they need to better respond quickly and effectively to emergency situations," stated U.S. Senator Claire McCaskill.

"Our first responders risk their lives to protect citizens. In rural areas, they routinely cover more ground than their counterparts in the city – that means a greater strain on resources. I'm very proud that Clarkton's fire department is going to receive support from USDA Rural Development so they can continue to serve the people of this outstanding community," said U.S. Representative Jo Ann Emerson.

The funding for the firefighting equipment is provided through USDA Rural Development's Community Facilities (CF) Program. In addition to firefighting equipment, the CF loan and grant program also provides funding to help rural communities finance essential community facilities, health services, and the purchase of equipment which will provide vital services to rural residents. Some examples include financing an ambulance, warning sirens, police car, jaws-of-life, rescue vehicle, 911 dispatch center, justice center, abuse center, public safety building, medical clinics and hospitals.

"This kind of assistance mirrors USDA Rural Development's mission and being committed to the future of rural communities," said Dunning. "Appreciation is extended to our Federal elected officials for supporting USDA



Pictured left to right: George Norton, Fireman; Mitzi Dell, Grant Writer; Pam Anglin, Rural Development Area Director; Ben Dyer, representing Senator Claire McCaskill; Greg Hammond, Mayor, City of Clarkton; James Hampton, Fireman; Janie Dunning, Missouri Rural Development Acting State Director; Phillip Crowe, Fireman; Tresia Webb, Rural Development Manager; Bruce Harrison, Fireman; Robert Brown, Fireman

Rural Development. They have been strong proponents for the necessary funding for essential services for rural Missourians.”

USDA Rural Development's mission is to increase economic opportunity and improve the quality of life in rural communities. As a venture capital entity, Rural Development has invested over \$76.8 billion since the beginning of the Bush Administration to provide equity and technical assistance to finance and foster growth in homeownership, business development, and critical community and technology infrastructure.

Further information regarding any of the USDA Rural Development programs is available by contacting the Kennett Rural Development Office at [tresia.webb@mo.usda.gov](mailto:tresia.webb@mo.usda.gov) or by calling 573-888-2536, ext. 4. Rural Development’s web site is: [www.rurdev.usda.gov/mo](http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/mo).

**"Committed to the future of rural communities."  
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