



Committed to the future of rural communities.

NEWS RELEASE

USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT PRESENTS \$3,239.01 MOCK CHECK TO THE CITY OF COOTER

On Tuesday, March 3, 2009, Greg Batson, Dexter Area Director for USDA Rural Development, presented the City of Cooter with a mock check in the amount of \$3,239.01. The funds provided to the City were utilized to purchase a replacement vehicle for the Police Department.

U.S. Senator Kit Bond stated, "The new police car will help protect the Cooter residents and the police officers who risk their lives for this community's safety. I commend the Cooter community and the USDA Rural Development staff for their hard work in making this project a reality."

"Part of our government's job is to help local communities access resources that can help keep their citizens safe," U.S. Senator Claire McCaskill said. "I'm pleased that the police department in Cooter has been awarded these federal grant funds to help purchase the equipment they need to keep folks safe."

The new patrol vehicle will be used to assist the Missouri State Highway Patrol and the Pemiscot County Sheriff's Department on Interstate 55 and for traffic enforcement in and around the City's schools. The City of Cooter was unable to finance the entire cost for a new vehicle without the assistance of USDA Rural Development's Community Facility Grant.

"Everyone in Pemiscot County understands the importance of police vehicles to public safety and the response to natural disasters in our region. The first responders in the City of Cooter are no exception, and I am very proud this grant will be put to good use on the replacement of an old vehicle. In rural areas, we put a lot of miles on public vehicles like patrol cars, and I am very glad USDA Rural Development has identified this worthwhile use for its grant program," said U.S. Representative Jo Ann Emerson.

The funding for the vehicle is provided through USDA Rural Development's Community Facilities (CF) Program. In addition to police vehicles, 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, fire-fighting equipment, jaws-of-life, rescue vehicle, 911 dispatch center, justice center, abuse center, public safety building, medical clinics and hospitals.

"USDA is happy to be able to assist the City of Cooter in replacing the police vehicle," said Batson. "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:
Christy Ferrell, Senator McCaskill's Office; Greg Batson, Area Director, Rural Development; Tresa Webb, Area Specialist, Rural Development; Ferrell Stewart, Chief of Police, City of Cooter; Regina Davis, City Cler, City of Cooter

USDA Rural Development's mission is to increase economic opportunity and improve the quality of life for rural residents. Rural Development has utilized a variety of programs 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 or by calling 573-888-2536, ext. 4. Rural Development's web site is: www.rurdev.usda.gov/mo.

**"Committed to the future of rural communities."
"USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender."**

To file a complaint of discrimination write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Ave., S.W., Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD).