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NEWS RELEASE

USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROVIDES \$18,000 TO THE CITY OF DONIPHAN

On Monday, April 20, 2009, Rural Development Area Director Greg Batson met with Doniphan Mayor Larry Ponder to view the new, 4-wheel drive pickup truck acquired by the City's Police Department. USDA Rural Development provided the City with a Community Facility Grant in the amount of \$18,000 to purchase and equip the vehicle for use by the Police Department.

U.S. Senator Kit Bond said, "It is critical we provide the law enforcement that put their lives on the line to protect our communities the equipment needed to do their job. The purchase of a new patrol vehicle will better equip these officers to continue to keep the people of Doniphan safe."



Pictured left to right: Mark Rodgers, Chief of Police; Tresia Webb, Rural Development Area Specialist; Mayor Larry Ponder; Greg Batson, Rural Development Area Director; Phyllis Minner, Rural Development Area Specialist; Kristi Nitsch, District Director, Congresswoman Jo Ann Emerson's Office; Christy Ferrell, District Director, Senator McCaskill's Office; Connie Teslow, City Clerk.

"In rural America, the vehicles used by our first responders can see a lot of miles in a short amount of time. Doniphan's police department is committed to public safety, and I am very glad that USDA Rural Development is able to assist in their mission," said U.S. Representative Jo Ann Emerson.

The Doniphan Police Department currently has four vehicles. All of the vehicles have very high mileage and are beginning to require costly repairs that are taking a toll on the Department's budget. With the addition of another patrol vehicle, the Department will be able to reduce the amount of usage on the older vehicles, thus saving the Police Department money for repairs.

The funding for the police vehicle is provided through the Economic Impact Initiative (EII) Grants program, a part of the USDA Rural Development's Community Facilities (CF) Program. The EII Grants are specifically targeted to rural communities with extreme unemployment and severe economic depression. 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, fire trucks, warning sirens, jaws-of-life, rescue vehicle, 911 dispatch center, justice center, abuse center, public safety building, medical clinics and hospitals.

Mayor Larry Ponder said, "The City of Doniphan is grateful for the assistance of USDA Rural Development in the purchase of our new 4-wheel drive pickup truck for the Doniphan Police Department.

During the recent ice storm, we were fortunate to have this vehicle available to us in our Emergency Protective Services work.”

“USDA is pleased to be able to provide assistance to the City of Doniphan for a new 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.”

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.

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