



Committed to the future of rural communities.

# NEWS RELEASE

Contact:

Kevin P. Hinkebein

573-756-6413 Ext. 5

## USDA, RURAL DEVELOPMENT PRESENTS MOCK CHECK TO CITY OF IRONTON

Morris Westfall, the Missouri State Director of USDA Rural Development, presented the City of Ironton Mayor, Robert Halket with a \$8,831 Mock Check on Wednesday December 17, 2008. The funds will be used to purchase Police Department Equipment which will improve safety and enforcement services for Ironton citizens.

U.S. Senator Kit Bond stated, “The new police equipment is critical to the protection of Ironton residents and the brave men and women who risk their lives to protect them. I commend the Ironton leadership and the USDA Rural Development staff for their dedication and hard work.”

U.S. Senator Clair McCaskill said, “New equipment will enable the Ironton Police Department to better serve and protect their community. I’m glad federal grant dollars are going to help the Ironton police officers keep their residents and themselves safe.”

U.S. Representative JoAnn Emerson said, “Rural Development is a driving force in the development and investment in our rural Missouri communities. This project will greatly contribute to the quality of life, public safety, and economic infrastructure throughout the region. I’m grateful for their strong partnerships with our state and local leaders, and I appreciate the advocacy of our congressional delegation for the projects USDA Rural Development supports.”

Ironton Mayor Robert Halket noted this grant will fund an important project to purchase equipment for the Police Department. “This grant will give our police officers tools to do their jobs more effectively and safely,” Mayor Halket stated. “Within the past two years, USDA has provided funding to install a new warning siren and purchase new firefighting gear.” Mayor Halket concluded, “The representatives from USDA have been very helpful and professional during these projects, which have greatly improved public safety; we would not have been able to make these improvements without their financial assistance.”



Pictured left to right: Robert Halket, Mayor of Ironton, Kevin Hinkebein, Area Specialist, Ray Koch, Chief of Police, Ironton, Terry Luetkemeyer, Area Director, Morris Westfall, Missouri State Director

**Westfall said, “The City of Ironton, Police Department provides essential services to Ironton. This additional equipment will provide for improved safety and security services of the police department. These projects mirror USDA Rural Development’s mission and President Bush’s initiative of being committed to the future of rural communities. I want to personally thank everyone that has worked together to make this project a reality. I am pleased that the community will benefit from the services of the City of Ironton. Special thanks are extended to our federal elected officials for making available the federal dollars for funding these projects.”**

**Anyone interested in obtaining information regarding assistance available through USDA Rural Development may visit the homepage at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/mo/> or contact Kevin P. Hinkebein, Rural Development Specialist, at the Farmington Office of USDA Rural Development at 812 Progress Drive, Farmington, MO 63640 or by calling 573-756-6413, Ext. 5.**

**“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).