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USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROVIDES GRANT FUNDS TO CITY OF LEWISTOWN FOR AIR EVAC UPGRADES

Morris Westfall, Missouri State Director for USDA Rural Development, announced the awarding of \$27,000 to the City of Lewistown and presented a Mock Check to Steve McKenzie, Mayor in a ceremony November 20, 2008 at the City Hall.

USDA Rural Development provided a Community Facility grant of \$27,000, along with \$26,200 contribution by the City of Lewistown, to construct a sidewalk from the Air Evac landing pad, along with repaving Viking Street. The project will increase accessibility for emergency medical transportation in this rural community with a population of 595 residents.



Pictured left to right: John Campen, County Commissioner; Scott Callicott, representing Congressman Kenny Hulshof; Jesse Roberts, County Commissioner; Morris Westfall, Rural Development State Director; Nancy Goehl, Presiding Commissioner; Steve McKenzie, Mayor of Lewistown; Lori Washburn, City Treasurer; Eric Corrick, City Alderman

"Providing top notch equipment and facility for first responders and emergency medical services should be a top priority," U.S. Senator Claire McCaskill said. "I'm thrilled federal funds will help increase accessibility and ease medical emergency assistance to residents of Lewistown."

"I am pleased to partner with USDA Rural Development and the City of Lewistown for this valuable funding," Congressman Kenny Hulshof said. "Accessibility to emergency medical transportation is a high priority in rural Missouri, and through this project we have an opportunity to improve that availability. I commend officials with USDA Rural Development and with the City of Lewistown for working to complete these vital improvements."

Mayor Steve McKenzie added, "Our small community doesn't have the manpower to initiate these projects without the help of Rural Development, and we are thankful they are there for their assistance."

“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.”

The funds are part of the Community Facilities Program, which provides grants and loans to assist in the development of essential community facilities in rural areas and towns up to 20,000 in population.

Anyone seeking more information about this or any other USDA Rural Development programs may visit the homepage at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/mo/> or by contacting Cheryl Elliott, Area Specialist, 17623 Hwy 19, New London, MO 63459, or by email to cheryl.elliott@mo.usda.gov or by calling (573) 985-7211 extension 4.

"Committed to the future of rural communities."

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