



NEWS RELEASE

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USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT PRESENTS MISSISSIPPI COUNTY GRANTS TOTALING \$ 168,354

The Mississippi County Ambulance District was the setting for Mock Check presentations from U.S. Congresswoman Jo Ann Emerson and Gregory C. Branum, Missouri State Director for USDA Rural Development, on October 17, 2006. The presentations totaled \$168,354. The grants are part of the USDA Rural Development Community Facilities program.

"I am very pleased to announce this funding for Mississippi County," said U.S. Sen. Jim Talent, a Member of the Senate Agriculture Committee. "Our law enforcement officers and first responders should have the best equipment available to help protect our communities. The additional vehicles and equipment will increase response time in the event of an emergency and save lives. By making these funds available, we are taking the necessary steps to improve safety in the community."

"We face many unique challenges in rural Missouri, and the USDA Rural Development program is designed expressly to identify and meet those challenges. Whether we are improving public water infrastructure, making our communities more hospitable to new businesses, or providing support for public safety with new police, fire and rescue vehicles, I am proud of the way we work together to protect our quality of life in Southern Missouri. In Mississippi County, public safety in the face of natural disasters is extremely important. New early warning sirens and police vehicles help us both prepare for and respond to tornados, floods, and earthquakes. I'm grateful to the hard work on the part of USDA Rural Development and to our Missouri Senators Kit Bond and Jim Talent for their support of these critical programs that affect our daily lives," said U.S. Representative Jo Ann Emerson.

"Funding important projects like this by Rural Development mirrors President Bush's initiative of being committed to the future of rural communities," Branum added. "Appreciation is also extended to U.S. Senators "Kit" Bond and Jim Talent and U.S. Representative Jo Ann Emerson for supporting USDA Rural Development. They have been strong proponents of providing essential services to rural Missourians."

Mississippi County Ambulance District was presented a mock check totaling \$79,745. Board of Director's President, Bill Feezor stated, "The Mississippi County Ambulance District is very pleased that USDA Rural Development has awarded us a Grant for new communication equipment, an early storm waning siren, and a new ambulance. We feel that Rural Development is keeping their pledge to rural communities to return our tax dollars for use with the public health and safety of our County. I would also like to thank the following businesses that pledged funds to assist with the storm siren: Delta Growers, Inc., Progressive Farm Credit; French Implement; Ford Tractor – New Holland and Ameren UE."



Kneeling : Lee Boze and Phillip Patterson
 Front Row: Rural Development Manager Cathy Walters, U.S. Representative JoAnn Emerson, Board Member LaWanda Douglas, and, Board President Bill Freezeor,
 Back Row: St. Rep Lanie Black, Rural Development State Director Greg Branum, Sen. Talent's Office Jeff Glenn, Area Specialist Rural Development, Phyllis Minner, Tim Brown, Joel Bockelman, Rural Development Area Director Pam Anglin, David Rettig, Jon Burden, John Joe Bryant, Board Member Jeff Small, Lewis Angel, Board Member Randy Arington, and Secretary Jayne Reno .



1st Row: Sen. Talent's Office Jeff Glenn, Rural Development Manager Cathy Walters, U.S. Rep. Jo Ann Emerson, City Clerk Lulua Clark, Alderman Dennis Hodges, Rural Development Area Director Pam Anglin, and Rural Development State Director Greg Branum.

2nd row: St. Rep. Lanie Black, Water Supt. Jimmy Sparks, and Rural Development Area Specialist Phyllis Minner

Emerson and Branum presented a mock check to Anniston's Mayor Dessie Gross to be used to purchase and install an early storm warning system. "The City of Anniston is pleased to be one of the recipients of a grant from USDA Rural Development in the amount of \$13,198.00" said Gross. "We would like to thank the Mississippi County Commission, Citizen's Bank of Charleston, Ameren UE and the Anniston Community Center Committee for helping to make this possible. We feel this has been needed and will give our families more time to seek shelter during storms."

The City of Wyatt received \$13,461 to purchase and install an early storm warning system. "Wyatt has needed a new storm siren for quite a few years and we would like to thank USDA, Rural Development for their assistance on this project" said Mayor Donald Williams. "We would also like to thank the Mississippi County Commissioners for their donation toward the funds the City will need."



Holding Check: Rural Development Manager Cathy Walters, U.S. Rep. Jo Ann Emerson and Mayor Dessie Gross
 Back Row: Rural Development Area Specialist Phyllis Minner, Alderwoman Betty Jackson, City Clerk Jeannie Thurman, St. Rep. Lanie Black, Sen. Talent's Office Jeff Glenn, Alderwoman Lena Brown, Alderwoman Linda Abner, Rural Development Area Director Pam Anglin, and Rural Development State Director Greg Branum.



Mayor Jackie Whiteside said, “The City of Charleston is grateful for the opportunity that Rural Development has allowed us to improve patrolling of the City with the funding of this grant.” The City of Charleston received a grant of \$15,750.00. “Without this grant, the City would not be able to purchase a new patrol car, which is greatly needed at this time,” stated Whiteside.

1st row: Rural Development State Director Greg Branum, Councilman Jack Freezor, Rural Development Manager Cathy Walters, U.S. Representative Jo Ann Emerson, Police Captain Robert Hearnes, Rural Development Area Director Pam Anglin, and Deputy Brandon Caid

2nd row: St. Rep. Lanie Black, Sen. Talent’s Office Jeff Glenn, Councilman Michael Jones, Rural Development Area Specialist Phyllis Minner, City Manager David Brewer, and Deputy Percy Owens.

City of East Prairie Mayor, Gene Ditto said, “Recently USDA Rural Development notified the City of East Prairie that we were approved for two

fully equipped police cars. Once again our close relationship with USDA Rural Development has been very beneficial for the city. We wish to express our thanks to our friends at USDA Rural Development, we couldn’t do it without them.” Emerson and Branum presented a check in the amount of \$46,200.00 to the City of East Prairie.



1st row: Chief of Police Danny Lafferty, Mayor Gene Ditto, U.S. Representative Jo Ann Emerson, Rural Development Manager Cathy Walters, and Rural Development State Director Greg Branum.

2nd: East Prairie Police Dept. Frankie Allan, Rural Development Area Director Pam Anglin, St. Rep. Lanie Black, Rural Development Area Specialist Phyllis Minner, Sen. Talent’s Office Jeff Glenn, and City of E. Prairie Administrator Lonnie Thurmond

USDA Rural Development's mission is to deliver programs in a way that will support increasing economic opportunity and improve the quality of life of rural residents. As a venture capital entity, Rural Development provides equity and technical assistance to finance and foster growth in homeownership, business development, and critical community and technology infrastructure. Further information on rural programs is available by visiting USDA's web site at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/mo> or by contacting Cathy Walters, Rural Development Manager, at the Charleston Local Office of USDA Rural Development at 831 S. Hwy 105, Charleston, MO 63834 or by calling 573-649-9947.

“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).