



Committed to the future of rural communities.

NEWS RELEASE

USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROVIDES FEDERAL FUNDING TO NEW MADRID COUNTY

On Friday, September 19, 2008, Missouri Rural Development State Director Morris Westfall and staff met with elected officials and members of New Madrid County to celebrate the recent acquisition of three fully equipped Sheriff's Department vehicles. The vehicles were purchased with the help of \$33,000 in federal funds from USDA Rural Development.

U.S. Senator Christopher "Kit" Bond stated, "The new police vehicles are critical to the protection of New Madrid County residents and the police officers who risk their lives to protect them. I commend the New Madrid community and the USDA Rural Development staff for their hard work in making this project a reality."

"Law enforcement officers risk their lives protecting Missourians everyday," U.S. Senator Claire McCaskill said. "They shouldn't have to feel like the vehicles they're using are putting them in greater danger, so I'm pleased that this funding will help New Madrid Country provide better equipment to their sheriff's department."

The New Madrid County Sheriff's Department assists all of the 14 communities in New Madrid County and is the sole source of service for approximately 35% of the county's residents. The County sought assistance from USDA Rural Development in order to replace current vehicles that have in excess of 200,000 miles each and are not reliable. The New Madrid County Sheriff's Office answers hundreds of calls each month. Having dependable vehicles, in good repair is vital to the efforts of the Sheriff's Office while affording the citizen's a higher level of service, safety and security.

"Vehicles are the biggest-ticket items in our first response and public safety communities, and in rural areas, they can be even more expensive to keep in good condition. The miles in our region add up pretty fast. I appreciate the attention of USDA Rural Development to the needs of New Madrid County and their regard for the service of our Sheriff's Department," said U.S. Representative Jo Ann Emerson.

The funding for the vehicles is provided through USDA Rural Development's Community Facilities (CF) Program. In addition to patrol 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.



Pictured left to right: Clyde Hawes, Presiding Commissioner; Tom Bradley, County Treasurer; Mark Baker, Commissioner; athy Walters, Rural Development Specialist; Morris Westfall, Rural Development State Director; Don Day, Commissioner; Terry Stevens, Sheriff

New Madrid County Sheriff Terry M. Stevens said, “I would like to express my appreciation to USDA Rural Development for the grant of \$33,000. This grant enabled the county to update our patrol fleet without placing a major strain on our budget. Thank you to Rural Development for all of the help.”

“This kind of assistance mirrors USDA Rural Development’s mission and President Bush’s initiative of being committed to the future of rural communities. Special thanks are extended to our federal elected officials including U.S. Senators Kit Bond and Claire McCaskill plus U.S. Representative Jo Ann Emerson for making available federal monies for funding this kind of project providing essential services for rural Missouri,” stated Westfall.

Further information regarding any of the USDA Rural Development programs is available by contacting the Charleston Rural Development Office at cathy.walters@mo.usda.gov or by calling 573-649-9947, 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).