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## USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT PRESENTS MOCK CHECK TO CITY OF PILOT KNOB

Greg Branum, the Missouri State Director of USDA Rural Development, presented the City of Pilot Knob with a \$10,806 Mock Check on Friday, November 3, 2006. The funds will be used to purchase and install an early warning siren.

U.S. Representative Emerson said, "Our public safety is of paramount importance in rural Missouri, and new early warning sirens are of critical importance. We have seen how our Southern Missouri neighbors have suffered at the hands of tornadoes and weather disasters, so this project for the City of Pilot Knob emphasizes our commitment to being prepared for these emergencies in the future. I very much appreciate USDA Rural Development for identifying this opportunity to invest in Pilot Knob, and I thank U.S. Senators, Kit Bond and Jim Talent, for their involvement and support."



(Left to Right) Cassie Thomas, State Representative Jo Ann Emerson's Office, Farmington; Donna Martin, USDA RD Area Specialist, Farmington; Terry Luetkemeyer, USDA RD Area Manager, Farmington; Mayor Maxine Dettmer, City of Pilot Knob; Kevin Hinkebein, USDA RD Manager, Farmington; Greg Branum, USDA RD State Director.

"Rural Development is very proud to be able to assist communities in Iron County with these important projects," said Branum. "The City of Pilot Knob has made a strong commitment to provide quality service to its residents and these funds will enhance its ability to do so. Providing emergency warnings is a vital necessity for the safety of any community. Funding important projects like this by Rural Development mirrors President Bush's initiatives for rural America and Rural Development's commitment to the future of rural communities."

"Kevin Hinkebein with the USDA was very helpful in filling out the application for the early warning siren grant for the City of Pilot Knob. The City was kept informed on each step that was taken in preparing the Grant. The City of Pilot Knob was very pleased on how the process was taken care of and the City would use the USDA in the future if the City would need their services again for any grant", stated Mayor Maxine Dettmer, City of Pilot Knob.

**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.”**

**Anyone interested in obtaining regarding assistance available through USDA Rural Development may visit the homepage at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/mo/> or can contact Kevin Hinkebein, Rural Development Manager, at the Farmington Local Office of USDA Rural Development at 812 Progress Drive, Farmington, MO 63640 or by calling 573-756-6413, Ext. 4.**

**“Committed to the future of rural communities.”**

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