



Committed to the future of rural communities.

NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Catherine L. Coffman (636) 789-3551

USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROVIDES CITY OF POTOSI \$17,774 FOR EMERGENCY RESPONSE VEHICLE

Greg Branum, the Missouri State Director of USDA Rural Development, presented the City of Potosi with a \$17,774 Mock Check on Tuesday, October 9, 2007. The funds will be used to purchase a four-wheel drive emergency response vehicle. The vehicle will house necessary equipment to aid in response to natural disasters, bio-hazards or other threats that require first responder action. The vehicle will serve a critical need by enhancing public safety and ensuring the police can reach all areas not always accessible by car.

U.S. Senator McCaskill said, "First responders are vital to public safety, and they should have the tools necessary to protect their community. This emergency response vehicle will help the city of Potosi be better prepared for future emergencies."

U.S. Representative Emerson said, "Our first responders face special challenges in rural areas, and our emergency vehicles routinely take more abuse and travel further distances to respond to emergencies. A 4-wheel-drive emergency response vehicle is a necessity during bad weather or traveling back roads. This is a tremendous investment by USDA Rural Development in the first responder community and the public safety of Potosi."

"The four-wheel drive vehicle for the City of Potosi Police Department is a much needed addition to our regular patrol cars as there are many areas in and around the city which can only be reached by off-road vehicles. Four-wheel drive capability will provide greater security for our citizens by allowing greater access to all areas of the city and surrounding area by the police department," said Mayor T. R. Dudley. Without the excellent assistance from Cathy Coffman and grant monies from USDA Rural Development a 4-wheel drive vehicle for the police department would not be affordable given the budget constraints in an economically distressed area like the City of Potosi."



LEFT TO RIGHT: Roger Coleman, City Clerk, City of Potosi; Mary Pat West, Alderwoman, City of Potosi; Ben Dyer, District Director, Senator Clair McCaskill's Office, Cape Girardeau, MO; Terry Luetkemeyer, Area Director, USDA Rural Development, Farmington, MO; Roy Logsden, Chief of Police, City of Potosi; Greg Branum, State Director, USDA Rural Development, Columbia, MO; T.R. Dudley, Mayor, City of Potosi; Cathy Coffman, Rural Development Manager, USDA Rural Development, Hillsboro, MO; Heather Garner, Congresswoman Jo Ann Emerson's Office, Farmington, MO; Debbie Jacobsen, Finance Officer, City of Potosi; Donna Martin, Area Specialist, USDA Rural Development, Farmington, MO; Jeff Graves, Alderman, Ward #1, City of Potosi

“Financing essential equipment is consistent with Rural Development’s mission and President Bush’s commitment to the future of rural communities,” said Branum. “Appreciation is also extended to our federal elected officials for supporting USDA Rural Development. They have been strong proponents of providing essential services to rural Missourians.”

Anyone interested in obtaining assistance regarding assistance available through USDA Rural Development may visit the homepage at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/mo/> or can contact Cathy Coffman, Rural Development Manager, at the Hillsboro Local Office of USDA Rural Development at 10820 Highway 21, Suite 201, Hillsboro, MO 63050 or by calling 636-789-3551.

“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).