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NEWS RELEASE

USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROVIDES FEDERAL FUNDING TO SCOTT COUNTY

On Thursday, September 18, 2008, Missouri Rural Development State Director Morris Westfall and staff met with elected officials and members of Scott County to celebrate the recent acquisition of two Sheriff's Department vehicles. The vehicles were purchased with the help of \$9,500 in federal funds from USDA Rural Development.

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



Pictured left to right: Rural Development State Director Morris Westfall, 1st District Commissioner Dennis Ziegenhorn, Presiding Commissioner Jamie Burger, 2nd District Commissioner Ron McCormick, and Rural Development Specialist Cathy Walters.

"Our law enforcement officers must have the best equipment available so they can do their jobs protecting Missouri families," U.S. Senator Claire McCaskill said. "I'm happy that Scott County will be able to provide new police vehicles to their hard working first responders."

Scott County sought assistance from USDA Rural Development to replace two vehicles in the current fleet that have in excess of 150,000 miles each. Traditionally, the replacement of vehicles has been accomplished with the budget of the Scott County Sheriff's Department. However, with the failure to renew a tax supporting jail operations, the county was forced to seek alternate funding. Scott County has 424 square miles that are patrolled by the Sheriff's Department and having dependable vehicles in good repair is vital to the safety of law enforcement and the citizens.

"This year has taught Missourians many lessons about preparedness. Fortunately, USDA Rural Development is constantly focused on keeping our communities safe and investing in our preparations for weather disasters. Scott County will benefit from this grant, and it will enable the men and women who are on the front lines in all kinds of emergencies to do their job quickly and safely. I very much appreciate the focus of USDA and the Missouri congressional delegation on the issues that affect us in rural America," 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.

Presiding Scott County Commissioner Jamie Burger said, “This grant is of great value to Scott County’s Law Enforcement Budget. Most grant application processes are extremely complicated, but with the help of Phyllis Minner and Cathy Walters, Rural Development Area Specialists, this application was very efficient and simplified. We at Scott County are very grateful and wish to extend our gratitude to USDA Rural Development.”

“The intent of the CF program is to assist rural communities with financial packages to enhance the quality of life for rural Missourians,” said Westfall. “Missouri Rural Development was very fortunate last year to have the opportunity to provide over \$11,200,000 in CF loans and grants. We are proud to be able to assist the Sheriff’s Department of Scott County with reliable vehicles for the protection and safety of the residents.”

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.

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