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# NEWS RELEASE

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## USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROVIDES \$24,555 TO THE CITY OF VAN BUREN

U.S. Congresswoman Jo Ann Emerson joined Greg Branum, Missouri State Director for USDA Rural Development, in presenting \$24,555 in grant funds to the City of Van Buren, in a Mock Check Ceremony, on November 2, 2006. These grant funds will be used to purchase two emergency warning sirens.

“This past spring we saw the devastating effects of tornadoes and storms in Missouri,” said U.S. Senator Jim Talent. “Without question, early warning systems save lives. This funding will be used to purchase new outdoor emergency warning equipment for the residents of

Van Buren so they are better prepared in the event of an emergency.”

“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 Van Buren 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 Van Buren, and I thank U.S. Senators Kit Bond and Jim Talent for their involvement and support,” said U.S. Representative Jo Ann Emerson.

“Rural Development is very proud to be able to assist communities in Carter County with these important projects,” said Branum. “The City of Van Buren has made a strong commitment to provide quality service to the residents and these funds will enhance their ability to do so. Providing emergency warnings is a vital necessity for the safety of any community.”

Mayor John Bailiff said, “The City of Van Buren is highly appreciative for being selected to receive this grant. Warning sirens for any community is a definite need. Our community knows



Front row, left to right: U.S. Representative Jo Ann Emerson, City Clerk Lisa Rogers, and Mayor John Bailiff  
Standing behind: Rural Development Manager Angela Reynolds, Dr. Greg Batson, Ozark Foothills Regional Planning, Rural Development Area Director Pam Anglin, Rural Development Specialist Phyllis Minner, and Rural Development State Director Greg Branum.

first hand the importance of having properly installed and working warning sirens. Adding additional sirens and upgrading our warning system will only improve our situation.” Bailiff added, “We are thankful for this opportunity to be involved.”

“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,” Branum said. He 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.” In addition, Branum recognized Ozark Border Electric Cooperative for their assistance in providing a utility pole and installation of the siren.

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 can contact Angela Reynolds, at Poplar Bluff, 4327 Hwy 67 N, Poplar Bluff Missouri 63841 or by calling 573-785-9679 ext. 4.

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