

## USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT NEBRASKA

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### USDA Funding Brings Improved Fire Protection

Lincoln, Nebraska, July 30-The Steele City-Endicott Rural Fire District (RFD) #7 is the recipient of \$22,000 in USDA Rural Development grant funds. The funds will allow the RFD to make needed improvements to its fire hall, trucks and fire fighting gear. This project will primarily serve the 530 residents located within the Endicott and Newton Precincts of Jefferson County. The Steele City-Endicott RFD #7 will contribute \$7,400 towards the costs of this project.

Roger Meeks, rural development specialist for Nebraska USDA Rural Development stated, "The present fire equipment and facilities have reached the end of their useful life. The proposed equipment improvements will enhance the RFD's fire fighting capabilities as well as enhance the safety of its personnel. Improvements to the fire hall will help the energy efficiency of the building and accessibility to the equipment."

This project entails the purchase of bunker gear, two gas-powered blowers, a new chassis for the grass unit, water reservoir tank replacement on the trucks, and installation of a powered overhead door for the fire barn.

USDA Rural Development is a credit arm of the U.S. Department of Agriculture whose mission is to provide financial assistance to rural communities who are unable to secure acceptable credit elsewhere for housing, community facilities, and business development. Assistance provided can be in the form of grants, direct loans, and guarantees on loans made by commercial lenders.

The USDA Rural Development grant funds for this project were provided through the Community Facility Grant Program. For additional information contact Roger Meeks in the USDA Rural Development Office, 6030 S. 58<sup>th</sup> Street Suite B Lincoln, Neb. 68516 or phone (402) 423-9683. Website: [www.rurdev.usda.gov/ne/](http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/ne/).

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