



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

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**NEW FIRE HALL FOR TRENTON
--VILLAGE AND USDA DOLLARS PROVIDE FUNDING**

North Platte, Neb., August 12--The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development awarded in late July, \$15,700 in grant funds to the Village of Trenton. The USDA grant funds, in conjunction with \$37,400 provided by the Village will provide the financing needed for a new fire hall for the community of 507 rural residents and surrounding area.

Roberta Mues, rural development specialist for Nebraska USDA Rural Development stated, "The new fire hall will replace an existing structure that is no longer being used because of its hazardous condition. These grant funds will aid the citizens of Trenton in providing a safe environment for their volunteer fire fighters and emergency rescue personnel."

Trenton's existing fire hall has aged and deteriorated to a point that the hall is structurally unsound and does not meet state standards, deeming it a safety hazard and unhealthy to the environment. The facility is also not handicap accessible and lacks adequate space for the public. Firemen and the community are no longer able to use the fire hall due to its state of condition. Additionally the physical appearance of the fire hall distracts from the renovated buildings nearby.

"On behalf of the residents of the Village of Trenton, I would like to thank the USDA Rural Development for their continued help and assistance in several projects that have benefited our community," stated Angie Bowman, Trenton Village Clerk. "Our community appreciates the dedication of our volunteer fire department and we thank USDA Rural Development for helping us achieve our goal of building a new fire hall."

The \$53,100 project entails construction of a new fire hall where the existing hall resides. The Volunteer Fire Department and community members will furnish in kind labor to demolish the existing structure. A hallway will connect the new 840 square foot fire hall to the Fire Barn. This will offer convenience and also assist rescue workers to expedite response time to emergencies. The new hall will be fully ADA compliant and will feature an office/meeting room, kitchen, mechanical room, open area for fundraising activities and other events, and a handicap accessible restroom. The facility will primarily be used by the Volunteer Fire Department and occasionally by the Rural Fire Department. The Village of Trenton's fire hall will provide the Volunteer Fire Department with a safe and healthy environment to conduct meetings and training activities, to gather for emergencies and hold events.

The grant funds were provided through the USDA Rural Development Community Facility Grant program. For additional information contact Roberta Mues at 1202 S. Cottonwood, North Platte, NE 69101 or phone (308) 534-2360. Visit <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/ne/>.



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