



Committed to the future of rural communities.

NEWS RELEASE

USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROVIDES \$9,200 TO THE CLEAR SPRINGS RURAL FIRE ASSOCIATION

Janie Dunning, Missouri State Director for USDA Rural Development presented a mock check in the amount of \$9,200 to the Clear Springs Rural Fire Association on Tuesday, November 24. The Community Facilities grant combined with funds from the association will pay for the purchase of additional fire safety equipment for the local volunteer fire department. Total cost of this project is \$12,777.



“The equipment purchases made possible by these funds will do much to ensure the continued safety of those living in the areas served by the Clear Springs Rural Fire Association,” said U.S. Senator Kit Bond. “I congratulate those leaders who worked to secure these funds and thank the fire association’s volunteers who serve selflessly the people of rural Texas County.”

From left: Fire Association board members Eddie Sanders and Ron Alberts; McCaskill's district director, David Rauch; Fire Association board member Kevin Gummo; Emerson's district director, Heather Peugh; Bradford; Fire Chief Loyd Lippert; Fire Association board member Clarence Story; USDA Rural Development Missouri State Director Janie Dunning and Area Specialist Danny Campbell; Bond's field representative, Hollie Elliott; and USDA Rural Development Area Director Mark Hultgren. Picture courtesy of Kimberly Langston, West Plains Daily Quill.

“When safety and security are an issue, it is vital that those who protect us are appropriately equipped,” U.S. Senator Claire McCaskill said. “I am pleased these federal funds will allow the Clear Springs Rural Fire Association to purchase fire safety equipment to better protect local citizens.”

“The safety of our firefighters depends on quality safety equipment in good condition. When our first responders have the resources they need, the entire community benefits from the increased level of protection. I am very glad this will be the case in Clear Springs thanks to the

involvement of USDA Rural Development. The volunteer firefighters in our rural communities do a great service to the rest of us and I can't overstate their importance to public safety," said U.S. Representative Joan Ann Emerson.

President Linda Bradford expressed appreciation by saying, "Clear Springs Rural Fire was organized in February 2003. The department operates solely on membership dues, donations and fund raising. This grant has helped us purchase some much needed portable equipment and safety equipment for our volunteers. The safety of our volunteers is equally as important as the lives and property we strive to protect. We thank the USDA for this great program."

Dunning said, "This kind of assistance mirrors USDA Rural Development's mission and President Obama's initiative of being committed to the future of rural communities. Special thanks are extended to our federal elected officials including U.S. Senators Kit Bond and Claire McCaskill plus U.S. Representative Jo Ann Emerson for making available federal monies for funding this kind of project providing essential services for rural Missouri."

Anyone seeking more information about this or any other USDA Rural Development program may visit the homepage at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/mo/> or by contacting Daniel Campbell, Area Specialist, at 3210 Hoover Drive, West Plains, MO 65775-3527 or by calling (417) 256-7117 extension 4 or by email to daniel.campbell@mo.usda.gov.

Committed to the future of rural communities

"USDA is an Equal Opportunity Lender, Provider, and Employer."
To file a complaint of discrimination write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Ave., S.W., Washington, D. C. 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD).