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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Yazoo County Receives Record Fire Truck Grant



From left-Roger Threet, Benton Volunteer Fire Department; Commissioner Mike Chaney; George Jeffcoat, Midway Volunteer Fire Department; Gary Taylor, Bentonia Volunteer Fire Department; Jonathan McBride, Holly Bluff Volunteer Fire Department; Wiley Barbour, Yazoo County Fire Coordinator; and Larry Barr, State Fire Coordinator.

Jackson- The state Rural Fire Truck Acquisition Assistance Program and the Supplemental Rural Fire Truck Acquisition Assistance Program have presented the largest amount of funds ever presented at one time since the programs began to the Yazoo County Board of Supervisors. Commissioner of Insurance and State Fire Marshal Mike Chaney recently presented the Board a check for \$410,000 for 7 fire trucks.

“Since the program began, we have received 662 applications and have disbursed funds to 623 applicants totaling \$30,606,455.09. These grants have led to the establishment of more than 150 new fire rated districts in the rural area of our state,” Chaney said at the presentation in Yazoo City.

During the 1995 legislative session the legislature passed the Rural Fire Truck Acquisition Assistance Program. The purpose of this grant program is to assist counties in the purchase of Class A fire apparatus required for fire protection grading class reduction. These rating reductions directly affect fire insurance rates charged to consumers.

Each county is eligible to receive 8 grants, 6 for \$50,000 each and 2 for \$70,000. During the 2004, 3rd Extraordinary Session a Supplemental Rural Fire Truck Acquisition Assistance

Program was passed allowing each county an additional \$70,000 grant after all Rounds available in the regular program have been exhausted.

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