

Rural Housing Service • Community Facilities Grant  
**Supporting Public Safety for 10 Plus Years**

Lifelong relationships begin with commitment. That's what made working 10 plus years with USDA Rural Development (RD) - Cookeville Area Office seem effortless to the city of Celina, a small town in rural Middle Tennessee. The city struggles to provide its citizens with efficient and reliable public safety due to the high costs associated with maintenance.

The working relationship with the city and RD began in 2010 when Celina received a Community Facilities loan/grant combo for renovations on their City Hall building. Then in 2013 and 2015, city officials reached out for assistance in purchasing a new police vehicle. The high costs of vehicles and other equipment had stretched city finances across all departments.



*Celina's new police vehicle parked in front of City Hall.*

Fast forward to Spring 2020, all of the police vehicles had over 170,000 miles each, and in the first three months of the year, the department had spent half of the vehicle maintenance budget. To top off all of their worries, one of the vehicles was involved in a collision that caused a fire and the vehicle was not salvageable. Who else was the city to turn to for assistance but the Cookeville Area Office.

In January 2021, the city was able to purchase a new SUV to provide safe and reliable service for their community. The grant assisted with the purchase cost as well as allowed the department to take one of its older, higher mileage vehicles out of service; further reducing maintenance costs. "I want to thank USDA for this grant," Police Chief Terry Scott said. "The Celina Police Department wouldn't have been able to purchase the new interceptor without the help of this agency."

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**Obligation Amount:** \$25,000 (grant)

**Date of Obligation:** 6/9/2020

**Congressional District:** Representative Rose, TN-06; Senators Marsha Blackburn and Bill Hagerty

**Partners:** City of Celina

**Demographics:** Clay County, Tenn.

**Impact:** Distress Community; Public Safety