

“Town of Gaston....Stop the Leaks”

Outline of Need:

The Town of Gaston’s police officers were using a small room originally used for storing dog food as their police department. The condition of that facility was beyond belief. This 15’x15’ storage room, which was part of an old supermarket building, was more than 50 years old and looked as if it should have been condemned. This one damp, dreary room was the shared office for the five Gaston police officers.



Town of Gaston Old Police Dept.

How Rural Development Helped:

While assisting the Town of Gaston obtain a new police car, Rural Development visited the town’s existing “police department.” The leaky roof caused mold and mildew throughout and damaged the walls, ceiling, floor and furniture. Plastic was used to protect the computers and office equipment. Even though the carpeting had been torn out, mold and mildew were still evident, making the room unsafe and a health hazard.

Rural Development responded to this obvious need and initiated conversations with Town officials about assisting with a new facility for the police department’s use. The Town of Gaston is a small, struggling town with very little tax base so they never imagined they would be able to afford a new facility. The existing town hall was also in need of an upgrade. Along with roofing issues, the restrooms were not handicapped accessible and the Town desired to bring the facility into compliance. They just did not have the funds to make it happen.



Town of Gaston New Police Dept.

The Town officials went through the application process and was determined eligible for funding through Rural Development’s Community Facilities program. Rural Development offered the Town of Gaston a loan in the amount of \$153,000 and a \$150,000 grant to make the town’s dream a reality.

The Results:

The police department was added to the existing town hall on land the town owned. Upgrades were also completed to the town hall by constructing a new roof and making the building and restrooms handicapped accessible. The town held a grand opening for the new Gaston Police Department with a great deal of support from the community. Town council members even approved installing new flooring for the town hall, and one council member painted the interior of the building himself. This project would not have been possible without the benefit of the financing package offered by Rural Development. Along with this facility, our agency has also provided financing for two new police vehicles for this small rural town.