

DEPARTMENT OF RURAL SERVICES (250) - 2009-11 BIENNIUM

**I) AGENCY SUMMARY & REVENUE SOURCES**

**MISSION**

The Department of Rural Services serves as a single contact point for local governments, state and federal agencies, and other private and non-profit organizations and individuals with an interest in the rural policies and programs of the state. Also, the Department analyzes proposed legislation that could affect rural areas, provides technical assistance to rural areas, and serves as a clearinghouse of information on rural development issues. The Arkansas Rural Development Commission oversees the functions and duties of the agency.

**TOTAL BIENNIAL BUDGET**

The budget for the first year of the biennium is \$1,415,114 and \$1,421,268 in the second year.

**FUNDING SOURCE**

The budget is funded by general revenues and a cash fund.

**II) CHANGES/APPROPRIATIONS**

Increases in unfunded appropriation of \$474,786 each year for the following -

- Rural Fire Protection Grants in the amount of \$200,000 to meet demand and increased costs associated with building fire stations.
- Community Development Grants in the amount of \$200,000 to meet demand and increased costs associated with building community centers.
- County Fair Improvement Grants in the amount of \$74,786 to meet rising labor and material costs.

**III) ADDITIONAL POSITIONS**

Total positions for the 2009-11 biennium: 5

Total positions for FY 2009: 5

**IV) SPECIAL LANGUAGE**

\* The Office of Rural Services shall promulgate regulations to determine how grants are to be disbursed subject to approval of Governor and approval of the ALC or Joint Budget Committee.

\* County Fair Grants. Rural Services shall develop rules and regulations for disbursement of the funds. The grants are to be

matched 50/50 with no county receiving more than \$30,000 for the biennium.