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NEWS RELEASE

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**Emergency Management Announces
Receipt of State Homeland Security
Grant Award**

Perkins County Deputy Emergency Manager Jim Brueggeman today announced Perkins County would be the recipient of a 2004 Homeland Security grant award in the amount of \$93,948.

The grant award is part of a statewide \$19 million distribution of Homeland Security funds announced May 21, 2004 by Governor Mike Johanns.

“We were very excited to hear that our grant application was approved and fully funded,” Brueggeman said. “We are now waiting for written confirmation of the grant award which will come from the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency in the coming weeks and after receiving written confirmation and completing some additional paperwork we can begin expending the funds.”

Of the \$93,948 awarded, \$89,448 will be used for expansion of the radio system used by law enforcement and fire departments in Perkins County while the remaining \$4,500 will be used for training costs and a table top exercise surrounding a chemical or bioterrorism related incident.

The radio system expansion will build upon the upgrade to equipment installed at the Perkins County Communications Center in the Perkins County Sheriff’s Office during early 2003 when the radio base stations used by local fire departments and the Sheriff’s Office along with the radio-dispatching console were updated and Enhanced 911 and a radio and telephone recording system were added.

The expansion project includes the purchase of five UHF repeater radio base stations, 40 mobile UHF radios and 20 portable UHF radios. The Perkins County Sheriff’s Office will receive two of the UHF repeater radio base stations to be placed near the Grinton and Venango area, which will improve communications coverage for officers working in those areas. The remaining three UHF repeater radio base stations will be utilized by fire department and emergency management personnel for their operations and placed near Grinton, Grant and Venango. Of the 40 mobile UHF radios being purchased, one radio will be placed in each patrol car, fire department and emergency management vehicle in Perkins County along with one radio being placed at the Perkins County Community Hospital. The Elsie, Grant, Madrid and Venango Volunteer Fire

Departments will each receive 5 portable UHF radios to be used when fire personnel are on scene of a call, but away from their fire vehicles. The expansion project has a target date for completion of December 31, 2004.

“This Federal grant is making an improvement in public safety in Perkins County that might not otherwise be possible in the immediate future with County funds,” Brueggeman said. “The radio system expansion project is going to greatly improve the ability of public safety agencies in Perkins County to communicate with one another, with surrounding public safety agencies and public safety agencies across the State of Nebraska and that ultimately translates into keeping the general public and our public safety workers safer.”

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