

Dagsboro enhances police fleet (Bethany Beach Wave)

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DAGSBORO --

Through efforts from federal, county and local governments, the Dagsboro Police Department is the proud owner of two new police cruisers.

The 2008

Crown Victoria patrol vehicles cost \$80,000 and came equipped with all the necessary lights, sirens and communications equipment. Sussex County Council provided \$50,000, the U.S. Department of Agriculture provided \$28,000 and the town invested \$2,000.

The

new patrol cars will replace high-mileage, high-maintenance vehicles in the town's fleet that are now insufficient for use in response to local emergencies, officials said.

"The

police department in Dagsboro has always worked to protect its citizens, respond to local emergencies and keep our streets safe," said Congressman Mike Castle. "We need to provide officers with the tools and resources they need to do their jobs well, and thanks to the efforts of the USDA and the Sussex County Council, these new police cruisers will help law enforcement (officers) better keep the community safe in the future."

According

to Sussex County Councilman Vance Phillips, a revenue stream from growth and development enabled the county to lend a hand.

"The

Sussex County Council is pleased to be able to channel a portion of these funds to the municipalities through this grant program"

USDA

is supporting the town of Dagsboro through a program known as the Rural Emergency Responders Initiative, designed specifically to strengthen the ability of rural communities to respond to local emergencies.

"Most

of you think corn and soy beans when you hear USDA," said Marlene Elliott Brown, the agency's director. "But, helping to ensure that rural America remains a safe place to live, work and raise a family is part of what we are called to do."

The

USDA has more than 40 programs that support agriculture, business operations, home ownership, home repair, rental housing, broadband technology, public safety, health care, education, social and cultural needs and energy-related projects.

Dagsboro Mayor Patti Adams said she credits Police Chief Floyd Toomey with the acquisition of these vehicles.

"Without him initiating this grant, I don't know where we'd be," she said. "I'm tickled to have these two new cars."