



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

To: News Media

From: Bamberg County Administration

Date: November 5, 2024

Re: Thanks to a Nearly \$400K USDA Grant, Bamberg County Gets New Heavy Equipment

Bamberg, South Carolina (November 2024) –About one month after the devastation of Hurricane Helene, Bamberg County received new and much-needed heavy equipment with the help of Congressman Clyburn and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). In July, the USDA awarded Bamberg County a Rural Development for a Community Facility Grant in the amount of \$381,750.

The USDA funds were extended to Bamberg County to purchase heavy equipment as outlined in the 2022 Ian Disaster Project. The following equipment has already been purchased:

- A 2023 CAT 920 Wheel Loader
- A 2023 CAT 310 Mini-Excavator

Bamberg County will also use the grant funds to purchase a 16.2-cubic-yard dump truck soon.

In just 2024 alone, Bamberg County has endured multiple severe weather events, and two months remain in the year with potential winter weather complications. In the aftermath of the January tornado, Bamberg County faced the daunting task of clearing Highway 601/Main Highway, an essential road for citizens and business owners. Similarly, after Tropical Storms Debby and Helene, several County roads, including residential roads, were completely washed out. The new heavy equipment will prove invaluable to future storm recovery efforts by increasing capacity and efficiency.

County Council Chairman Evert Comer, Jr. thanked the Bamberg County staff for securing the grant and the USDA for their approval. He stated, “Without the assistance of Congressman Clyburn and the USDA, we would not have been able to purchase this necessary equipment, which will mitigate our current and future storm recovery efforts.”

“This heavy equipment is essential to rebuilding and maintaining our infrastructure, especially when natural disasters like Hurricane Ian, the January tornado, Tropical Storm Debby, and Hurricane Helene have become more prevalent. This equipment will not only help us recover from recent storms but also prepare for future ones,” stated County Administrator Joey Preston.

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For more information on this press release, email info@bambergcounty.sc.gov.