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MORE THAN \$155,000 WORTH OF LIFE-SAVING EQUIPMENT AWARDED TO NORMAN AREA PUBLIC SAFETY ORGANIZATIONS

NORMAN, Okla. – Continuing its mission of supporting hometown heroes, Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation will celebrate \$155,291 worth of life-saving equipment grants awarded to seven local public safety organizations during a press event at **10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, March 8** at the Firehouse Subs restaurant, located at **320 S.E. 12th Ave. Norman, Okla. 73071.**

The event will incorporate a donation ceremony, as well as live demonstrations from receiving organizations, explaining the importance of the equipment and how it will be used to save lives. Residents and Firehouse Subs guests are invited to join the celebration and see firsthand how their generous contributions have come full circle to provide much-needed equipment in their community.

“It’s truly amazing to be a part of events where much equipment is donated to first responders and organizations in need,” said Firehouse Subs Senior Manager of Foundation Development Meghan Vargas. “These equipment grants shed light to just how far small guest contributions can go.”

The below encapsulates each grant award being celebrated at the March 8 event, including a brief description of equipment use and value:

- **Norman Regional Health Foundation** received an amplifying system worth \$62,354. The awarded system will boost signal from cellular towers, helping ensure the organization is able to communicate with first responders at all times, including when in areas of the building with low signal.
- **City of Tecumseh Fire Department** received an all-terrain vehicle (ATV) and skid unit worth \$23,299. Since the department serves a large rural area at risk for wildfires, the awarded ATV and skid unit will allow firefighters to provide

life-saving assistance and fire suppression in areas impassable by traditional emergency vehicles.

- **McClain County Sheriff's Department** received police vehicle worth \$34,030. The awarded vehicle will come equipped with police service dog (K9) features, helping the department establish its first K9 program and deliver safe and efficient protection services to the community.
- **Seminole Fire/EMS** received an inflatable rescue boat worth \$14,186. The awarded boat will be used in swift water rescue missions during flood emergencies, allowing first responders to reach victims easier and faster.
- **City of Moore Emergency Management** received a fire extinguisher training system worth \$18,822. The awarded training system will allow city officials to train the community on the safe and proper use of fire extinguishers through hands-on instruction and demonstrations.
- **Norman Police Department and Moore Police Department** received automated external defibrillators (AEDs) and accessories worth \$1,300 each. The awarded AEDs will help ensure officers are prepared to provide medical assistance if an individual goes into cardiac arrest.

"Our department is extremely blessed to have received funding from Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation," said Tecumseh Fire Chief Aaron Williams. "With most of Oklahoma experiencing drought conditions, this year's wildfire season has already proven to be a challenge. The ATV has already been used to place firefighters deep into areas where full size firefighting vehicles cannot reach a wildland fire; limiting firefighter fatigue and property damage. We are very appreciative of the award."

Event attendees include representatives from each receiving department, as well Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation Senior Manager of Foundation Development Meghan Vargas, Firehouse Subs Area Representative and Franchisee Jim Costello and Firehouse Subs Franchisees Joan Costello and Alicia Hughes.

Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation was founded in 2005 in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. Firehouse Subs co-founders, Chris Sorensen and Robin Sorensen, traveled to Mississippi where they fed first responders and survivors. As they traveled back to Florida, they knew they could do more and Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation was born with the mission of providing funding, life-saving equipment and educational opportunities to first responders and public safety organizations. Since inception, the non-profit organization has

given more than \$24 million to hometown heroes in 46 states, Puerto Rico and Canada, including more than \$562,000 in Oklahoma.

To raise money for the Foundation, Firehouse Subs restaurants participate in a number of fundraising efforts. Each restaurant recycles leftover, five-gallon pickle buckets and sells them to guests for \$2. Donation canisters on register counters collect spare change, while the Round Up Program allows guests to “round up” their bill to the nearest dollar. Grant allocations are made possible thanks to the overwhelming support of Firehouse Subs restaurants and generous donors.

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