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## **MORE THAN \$25,000 WORTH OF LIFE-SAVING EQUIPMENT AWARDED TO NORTH VIRGINIA FIRST RESPONDER ORGANIZATIONS**

WOODBIDGE, Va. – Continuing its mission of supporting hometown heroes, Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation will celebrate \$25,653 worth of life-saving equipment grants awarded to The Cherrydale Volunteer Fire Department and Town of Dumfries Police Department during a press event at **10:30 a.m. on Thursday, Oct. 5** at the Firehouse Subs restaurant located at **13305 Worth Ave. Woodbridge, Va. 22192.**

The event will incorporate a donation ceremony, as well as live demonstrations from receiving departments, explaining the importance of the equipment and how it will be used to save lives. Woodbridge 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.

“While we often think first responders have the tools they need to save lives, the truth is that many times they are using older technology and even outdated equipment,” said Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation Senior Manager of Foundation Development Meghan Vargas. “We want to be sure they have the best tools and training to protect and save lives.”

**The below encapsulates grant awards being celebrated at the Oct. 5 event, including a brief description of equipment use and value:**

- **The Cherrydale Volunteer Fire Department** received a variety of on-site air replenishing and rehabilitation equipment valued at \$17,390, including a rehab tent kit, air conditioner and heating kit, standard trauma kit, oxygen kit and cooling vests. These awarded items will allow the department to provide a fully functioning rehab tent for firefighters to receive treatment after training operations and emergency situations, improving safety and recovery time. This is extremely important, as a 2017 report by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA)

shows that 42 percent of firefighter deaths are caused by overexertion, stress or medial injuries.

- **Town of Dumfries Police Department** received two automated external defibrillators (AEDs), 14 first aid kits, 14 trauma kits, 14 seatbelt cutters and two breaching tools, entry kits and flashlights worth a combined \$8,263. The awarded AEDs will be placed into police cruisers, helping ensure the department is prepared to provide medical assistance if an individual goes into cardiac arrest. The remaining equipment will provide officers with necessary first aid supplies during medical emergencies, which accounts for 37 percent of the department's calls.

"This grant is a great opportunity for a smaller police department like the Town of Dumfries," said Town of Dumfries Police Department Chief Nicholas Esposito. "We desperately need equipment that will help us render aid to the public, as well as keep our officers safe. This equipment will help us respond to individuals in a much faster way than we could before. We will also be able to administer first aid while waiting for medical staff to assist. This grant is a great success for not only the Police Department, but for the residents of the Town of Dumfries as well."

Event attendees include local first responders, as well as Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation Senior Manager of Foundation Development Meghan Vargas, Firehouse Subs Area Representative Dan Lowe and Firehouse Subs Franchisees Pamela Pitkin, Barry Pitkin and Prashant Patel.

Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation was founded in 2005 in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, when Firehouse Subs co-founders, Chris Sorensen and Robin Sorensen, traveled to Mississippi where they provided food to 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 its inception, the non-profit organization has granted more than \$28 million to hometown heroes in 46 states, Puerto Rico and Canada, including more than \$995,000 in Virginia.

Each restaurant recycles leftover, five-gallon buckets, available to guests for a \$2 donation to the Foundation. 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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