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MORE THAN \$50,000 AWARDED TO TARRANT AND PARKER COUNTY FIRST RESPONDER ORGANIZATIONS

FORT WORTH, Texas – Continuing its mission of supporting hometown heroes, Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation will celebrate \$50,677 worth of life-saving equipment grants awarded to three first responder organizations during a press event at **2:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 15** at the City View Towne Crossing Firehouse Subs restaurant located at **4845 Bryant Irvin Road, Fort Worth, Texas 76132.**

The event will feature live demonstrations from benefitting departments, explaining the importance of the equipment and how it will be used to save lives. Fort Worth 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 feels great to be able to give back to those who put their life on the line everyday to protect us,” said Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation Senior Manager of Foundation Development Meghan Vargas. “First responders are truly our community’s heroes.”

The below encapsulates each grant award being celebrated at the Nov. 15 event, including a brief description of equipment use and value:

- **Benbrook Police Department** received 21 gas masks valued at \$6,929. The awarded masks will replace old, damaged gear, ensuring patrol and SWAT officers are protected in HAZMAT situations and during riot/crowd control incidents and are able to safely protect their community.
- **Parker County Emergency Services Department #6** received extrication equipment valued at \$23,748, including a spreader, cutter, ram tool, batteries and charger. The awarded equipment will improve the department’s rescue

capabilities for victims in motor vehicle accidents. Four major highways run through the department's response district, and according to the department, five fatal accidents have occurred over the past 18 months.

- **Lake Worth Fire Department** received three portable radios with accessories and programming valued at \$20,000. The awarded radios will replace out-of-date technology, improving communication between Lake Worth Fire Department, Tarrant County dispatchers and the 15 other area fire departments within their 35-square mile response area. As a member of the State Task Force, the department will be able to use the awarded radios to communicate from any location where they are dispatched.

"The Benbrook Police Department recently received gas masks for officers thanks to the generous donation of funds from the Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation," said Benbrook Police Department Detective Michael Mullinax. "This equipment provides more comfort and safety to our officers as they strive to protect the public. We can't say enough to express our gratitude."

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 Ryan Franklin and Firehouse Subs Franchisees Karon Adams and Stephanie Adam.

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 \$29.5 million to hometown heroes in 46 states, Puerto Rico and Canada, including more than \$2 million in Texas.

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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