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MORE THAN \$78,000 WORTH OF LIFE-SAVING EQUIPMENT AWARDED TO TRAVIS AND WILLIAMSON COUNTY FIRST RESPONDER ORGANIZATIONS

AUSTIN, Texas – Continuing its mission of supporting hometown heroes, Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation will celebrate \$78,474 worth of life-saving equipment grants awarded to four local first responder organizations during a press event at **10 a.m. on Thursday, Oct. 19** at the Round Rock Crossing Firehouse Subs restaurant located at **3151 S. Interstate 35, Round Rock, Texas 78664**.

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. Round Rock 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.

“Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation aims to recognize and respond to needs in the community,” said Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation Senior Manager of Foundation Programs Jackie Gubbins. “Through the Foundation, we’re able to provide public safety organizations with needed equipment that they might not be able to obtain if it weren’t for our organization. It’s an honor to know we’re helping save lives.”

The below encapsulates grant awards being celebrated at the Oct. 19 event, including a brief description of equipment use and value:

- **Texas Search and Rescue (TEXSAR)** received a fire skid outfit for the TEXSAR UTV valued at \$15,056. The awarded skid unit will allow the organization to provide fire suppression in areas impassable by traditional emergency vehicles, and give them the capability to respond independently in support of any requesting department's wildland fire needs across the state.

- **Central Texas Regional SWAT/ City of Leander Police Department** received 20 night vision optical enhancement devices valued at \$39,490. The awarded devices will be mounted on officers' helmets and used to detect body heat during nighttime search and rescue missions, improving the department's lifesaving capabilities.
- **Georgetown Fire Department** received a live fire extinguisher training system valued at \$10,332. The awarded system will allow firefighters to train the community on the safe and proper use of fire extinguishers through hands-on instruction and demonstration.
- **Travis County Emergency Services District No. 2/ Pflugerville Fire Department** received 400 combination smoke and carbon monoxide alarms valued at \$13,596. The awarded devices will be placed in high-risk neighborhood homes to ensure the community receives basic protections against fire and carbon monoxide through the provision of working alarms, while also allowing first responders to quickly determine whether CO is present when responding to emergency calls.

Event attendees include local first responders, as well as Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation Senior Manager of Foundation Programs Jackie Gubbins, Firehouse Subs Area Representative Bill Krassner and the following Firehouse Subs franchisees: Bryan and Laura Phillips, Vicky Eckel, Juan Yanez and Noemi Yanez.

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 \$1.9 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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