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MORE THAN \$57,000 WORTH OF LIFESAVING EQUIPMENT AWARDED TO ARKANSAS PUBLIC SAFETY

ROGERS, Ark. – Continuing its mission of impacting the lifesaving capabilities and the lives of local heroes and their communities, Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation will celebrate \$57,718 worth of lifesaving equipment grants awarded to four local public safety organizations during a press event at **10:30 a.m. on Thursday, Oct. 4, 2018** at the Firehouse Subs restaurant located at 2009 Promenade Blvd. Rogers, Ark. 72756.

“Giving back to our first responders is the primary goal of the Foundation,” said Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation Executive Director Robin Peters. “We’re in a very fortunate position that allows us to work together with Firehouse Subs restaurants to raise funds that help provide lifesaving equipment locally and throughout the country. Thanks to the generosity of so many people, we’re able to make a difference.”

The event will feature live demonstrations from local first responders, explaining the importance of the awarded 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.

The below encapsulates each grant award being celebrated at the Oct. 4 event, including a brief description of equipment use and value:

- **Barling Fire Department** received a gear washer and dryer valued at \$17,005. The awarded appliances will allow the department to clean turnout gear more

frequently, improving firefighter safety by reducing exposure to carcinogenic agents and ensuring access to dry gear during the next fire emergency. Studies show firefighters face a nine percent increase in cancer diagnoses and a 14 percent increase in cancer-related deaths compared to the general population.

- **Benton County** received 35 infant car seats, 32 convertible car seats and 32 combo car seats valued at \$5,622. The awarded car seats will allow the Benton County Sheriff's Office to provide proper child safety restraint training and new car seats to families in need as part of its Child Passenger Safety program, reducing crash-related child fatalities and injuries.
- **Marmaduke Volunteer Fire Department** received extrication equipment valued at \$10,844. The awarded tools will improve the department's rescue capabilities for victims in motor vehicle accidents by allowing firefighters to cut through materials used in modern manufacturing and quickly reach victims in need of medical attention.
- **Tontitown Fire Department** received a four-wheel drive pickup truck valued at \$24,247. The awarded vehicle will aid the town's new fire department during community-based fire prevention activities and fire inspections, as well as serving as a command vehicle at emergency scenes. The department is increasingly active in the community, and utilizing a smaller vehicle for public events will ensure the fire engine's availability in case of an emergency.

Event attendees include local first responders, Benton County representatives, Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation Executive Director Robin Peters and Firehouse Subs Area Representative Jim Maxwell, as well as the following Firehouse Subs franchisees: Robert Stevens, Robert Burnett, Crystal Crawford, Matthew Crawford, Christopher Delre, Garry Young, Jason Steele, Jim White and Audie White.

Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation was founded in 2005 in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, when Firehouse Subs 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, lifesaving equipment and educational opportunities to first responders and public safety organizations. Since its inception, the non-profit organization has granted more than \$37.7 million to hometown heroes in 47 states, Puerto Rico and Canada, including more than \$540,000 in Arkansas.

Grant allocations are made possible thanks to the overwhelming support of Firehouse Subs restaurants and generous donors. 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. The Foundation is also the beneficiary of a Charitable Sales Promotion where Firehouse of America (FOA) will donate to the Foundation a sum equivalent to 0.13% of all gross sales with a minimum donation of \$1MM through December 31, 2018. To donate online and support Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation, visit FirehouseSubsFoundation.org.

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