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FIREHOUSE SUBS PUBLIC SAFETY FOUNDATION CELEBRATES LIFESAVING GRANTS IN GREATER DES MOINES DURING FIRST RESPONDERS MONTH

More than \$71,000 in equipment grants awarded

AMES, Iowa – Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation continues its mission of impacting the lifesaving capabilities and the lives of local heroes and their communities and kicks off First Responders Month by celebrating \$71,144 worth of lifesaving equipment grants awarded throughout the greater Des Moines area during a press event at **10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 3, 2018**, at the Firehouse Subs restaurant located at 703 S. Duff Ave. Ames, Iowa 50010.

First responders are the first to arrive on scene in the event of an emergency, and they require the most up-to-date, highest functioning equipment available to keep themselves and their community safe. As budget cuts continue across the country, especially at the local level, many first responders are finding it difficult to acquire funds needed to purchase new tools and equipment needed to provide safe and efficient services to their community. The Foundation bridges the funding gap between budget cuts and the equipment first responders need.

“We are deliberate in our efforts to be good stewards of taxpayers’ dollars and, when possible, seek alternative revenue streams to fund equipment acquisitions,” said Des Moines Fire Department Fire Chief John TeKippe. “We sincerely appreciate the Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation for approving our request and awarding the funds to purchase the equipment. On behalf of the City of Des Moines and the Des Moines Fire Department, we applaud Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation for their

desire to assist public safety responders to acquire rescue and safety equipment to better serve the needs of the community.”

The below encapsulates each grant award, including a brief description of equipment use and value.

- **Altoona Fire Department** received a forcible entry simulator valued at \$7,686. The awarded simulator will ensure firefighters are trained to enter buildings and rescue victims quickly and safely, with minimal damage to property.
- **Des Moines Fire Department** received technical rescue equipment, including a tripod kit, winch, two pulleys, four harnesses, four helmets, helmet lights and rope valued at \$10,418. The awarded equipment will improve the department’s technical rescue capabilities, allowing firefighters to respond safely and efficiently to high-risk emergency events.
- **Jefferson Police Department** received two automated external defibrillators (AEDs) valued at \$2,790. The awarded AEDs will help ensure police officers are prepared to provide medical assistance if an individual goes into cardiac arrest.
- **Northern Warren Fire Department** received four radios with chargers valued at \$19,310. The awarded radios will replace out-of-date technology, improving communication between North Warren County dispatchers and the fire department. North Warren Fire Department averages 300 calls per year, so streamlined and efficient communication is crucial.
- **Story City Fire Department** received extrication equipment valued at \$30,940. 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.

Event attendees include local first responders, Jefferson, Iowa Police Chief Mark Clause, Altoona, Iowa council members Jeremy Boka and Vern Willey II, Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation Senior Manager of Foundation Development Meghan Vargas and Firehouse Subs Director of Company Operations Steve Kaplan.

Grant allocations are made possible thanks to the overwhelming support of Firehouse Subs restaurants and generous donors. Each restaurant recycles leftover, five-

gallon pickle 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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ABOUT FIREHOUSE SUBS PUBLIC SAFETY FOUNDATION

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 returned home, 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 \$425,000 in Iowa.

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