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FIREHOUSE SUBS PUBLIC SAFETY FOUNDATION AIDS KANSAS FIRST RESPONDERS

More than \$126,000 in equipment grants awarded

WICHITA, Kan. – March 19, 2019 – Continuing its mission of impacting the lifesaving capabilities and the lives of local heroes and their communities, the Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation will celebrate \$126,749 worth of lifesaving equipment grants awarded to south-central Kansas first responders on **Tuesday, March 19, 2019 at 2:30 p.m.** The event will take place at the Firehouse Subs restaurant located at 2413 N. Greenwich Road.

“Giving back to our first responders is the primary goal of the Foundation,” said Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation Senior Manager of Foundation Development Meghan Vargas. “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 below encapsulates the grant awards being celebrated at the March 19 event, including a brief description of equipment use and value:

- **Burrton Consolidated Fire District #5** received an all-terrain vehicle (ATV) and accessories valued at \$17,984. The awarded ATV will enhance response efforts in areas impassable by traditional emergency vehicles, allowing firefighters to quickly reach the scene of emergencies and provide medical and firefighting assistance.
- **City of Russell Fire Department** received four self-contained breathing apparatuses (SCBAs) and cylinders valued at \$27,912. The awarded devices will replace older air packs and will be worn when air quality is poor, providing

firefighters necessary protection and breathable air so they can deliver efficient services to the community.

- **Clearwater Emergency Services 48** received an inflatable rescue boat, transport trailer and accessories valued at \$21,070. **Hutchinson Fire Department** also received an inflatable rescue boat and accessories valued at \$8,771. The awarded boats will be used in swift water rescue missions during flood emergencies, allowing first responders to reach victims safely.
- **Reno County EMS at Hutchinson Regional Medical Center** received 44 sets of extrication protective gear valued at \$23,079. A recently adapted requirement states that all Reno EMS personnel be properly protected during extrication situations, and the awarded gear will ensure they're complaint without being denied access to patients.
- **Sumner County Fire District 8** received seven structural helmets with built-in lighting and an intake valve valued at \$3,590. The awarded helmets will provide necessary protection and lighting at night or after natural disasters when power is lost. The awarded intake valve will replace outdated equipment still in use, enhancing water flow and slowing the rate of corrosion.
- **Valley Center Fire Department** received extrication equipment valued at \$24,343. The awarded equipment 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.

The events 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. Event attendees include local first responders, Meghan Vargas, Firehouse Subs Area Representative Jim Costello and multiple Firehouse Subs franchisees.

Grant allocations are made possible thanks to the overwhelming support of Firehouse Subs restaurants and generous donors. Each restaurant recycles 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 a sum equivalent to 0.11% of all gross sales with a minimum donation of \$1MM through December 31, 2019.

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 \$40 million to hometown heroes in 48 states, Puerto Rico and Canada, including more than \$546,000 in Kansas.

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