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**FIREHOUSE SUBS PUBLIC SAFETY FOUNDATION  
ENHANCES OKLAHOMA PUBLIC SAFETY**  
*More than \$122,000 in equipment grants awarded*

NORMAN, Okla. – March 20, 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 \$122,531 worth of lifesaving equipment grants awarded to greater Oklahoma City area first responders on **Wednesday, March 20, 2019 at 10:30 a.m.** The event will take place at the Firehouse Subs restaurant located at 320 12<sup>th</sup> Ave SE.

“We want to thank our donors who help us provide these lifesaving tools,” said Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation Senior Manager of Foundation Development Meghan Vargas. “Our first responders are our heroes and we want to be sure they have the tools and technology they need to protect their communities.”

**The below encapsulates the grant awards being celebrated at the March 20 event, including a brief description of equipment use and value:**

- **Edmond Fire Department** received a utility terrain vehicle (UTV) valued at \$24,820. The awarded UTV will allow firefighters to provide medical support and execute search and rescue missions in areas impassable by traditional emergency vehicles.
- **Lexington Fire Department** received 20 complete sets of wildland firefighting gear valued at \$23,365. Replacing older, outdated equipment, the awarded gear will provide firefighters with the necessary protection in the line of duty via advanced technology that is lightweight and durable, designed specifically for wildfire suppression.

- **The Village Fire Department** received a thermal imaging camera valued at \$8,330. The awarded camera will detect body heat and hot spots in burning buildings, as well as during outdoor search and rescue missions, allowing firefighters to quickly locate victims and provide lifesaving assistance.
- **Tuttle Fire Department** received two automated chest compression systems valued at \$19,000. The awarded systems will assist firefighters by delivering uninterrupted chest compressions at a constant rate and depth to cardiac arrest patients, helping improve a patient's chance of survival.
- **Woods County Sheriff's Office** received an all-terrain vehicle (ATV) and accessories valued at \$20,726. The awarded ATV will enable officers to better patrol a variety of terrain and will be helpful during search and rescue missions.
- **Yukon Police Department** received one robot with a zoom camera and accessories valued at \$26,290. The department is the largest participating agency on the Canadian County Special Operations Team, and the awarded robot will assist the department during high risk, potentially hostile search and rescue missions. Additionally, the City of Yukon is in "tornado alley," and the new tool will assist during recovery missions after natural disasters.

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](http://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 \$716,000 in Oklahoma.

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