



# *Pueblo County Sheriff's Office*

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## News Release

For Immediate Release  
Contact: Gayle Perez 719 924 5471  
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### **Sheriff Taylor Donates Life-Saving Equipment to Rural Fire Departments**

**Pueblo, CO:** In true holiday spirit, Pueblo County Sheriff Kirk M. Taylor visited Pueblo's rural fire departments Thursday delivering a "gift". Each agency received the latest in portable medical technology, a LifePak 15 Monitor/Defibrillator. The LifePak 15 measures multiple vital signs signaling any immediate and critical care needs of patient, including those with COVID-19 symptoms. It is also a defibrillator, delivering a life-saving shock to the heart of a patient when necessary.

Masked up and donning a Santa hat, Sheriff Taylor delivered the first device to his hometown fire department in Rye and finished the day in eastern Pueblo County at the Rural Fire Department. At each stop, Taylor thanked the Fire Chiefs for their service and dedication throughout the difficult year. "I feel blessed that we were able to obtain the funds to buy these life-saving instruments for rural areas of the county. I wanted to personally deliver these with a grateful heart and a smile."

Although a huge asset to first responders, at \$34,000 each the equipment is too great an expense for the rural fire agencies, some of whom are struggling with staffing shortages and overtime expenses brought on by the pandemic. As COVID-related medical calls continued to increase this Fall, Sheriff Taylor saw the opportunity to fund the devices through the federal CARES Act.

Beulah Fire Chief Bryan Ware said he was extremely grateful for the donation because the fire district could not purchase one on their own. "This will allow for critical patient care monitoring while limiting direct contact. That is crucial for COVID-19 patient care," Ware said.

"This equipment could not have come at a better time given the significant increase in our call volume, particularly during COVID-19 pandemic conditions," said Pueblo West Fire Chief Brian Caserta. "Thanks to the efforts of Sheriff Taylor we are able to provide the latest available cardiac monitoring and definitive care possible to the residents of Pueblo West."

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