



## Communications Department

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### **Stop the Bleed Foundation grant ‘will save lives’**

City of Jonesboro first-responders will receive training in life-saving medical techniques, thanks to a grant presented to the Stop the Bleeding Foundation, a Jonesboro non-profit presided by Dr. Spencer Guinn.

The grant, which totals \$149,334, is from Arkansas Blue Cross and Blue Shield’s Blue and You Foundation and is given annually to non-profit and government organizations and programs that positively impact health of Arkansans.

This grant money will be used in the Northeast Arkansas Trauma Zone to train 600 law enforcement officers and firefighters in life-saving medical techniques. Each will attend an intense, eight-hour Law Enforcement and First Responder Tactical Emergency Casualty Care course at no cost to their department. Upon successful completion of the course, they will receive free Individual First Aid Kits to carry on and off duty.

While all current Jonesboro firefighters are trained in Guinn’s program, Police Chief Rick Elliott said only a small percentage of JPD officers carry and are trained in the use of tourniquets.

“We’ve put tourniquets on people, and that’s a big part of the kits,” Elliott said. “We’ve had three tourniquet saves this year. Without those, there would be three deaths. If you sever an artery, you’ll bleed out in three-to-five minutes and never make it to the ER.”

With this grant, Elliott said all his officers will have the Individual First Aid Kits. “That means more lives will be saved,” he said.

Fire Chief Kevin Miller said the grant will help continue JFD’s work with this vital program.

“We’ve been working with Dr. Guinn and his program for the last year and hope to continue and expand this program,” he said.

Jonesboro Mayor Harold Perrin said Guinn’s work has been important to Northeast Arkansas.

“He’s done so many things that serve a wide range of our community, and his Stop the Bleeding Foundation does exactly what it says – it saves lives,” Perrin said. “He’s been a blessing for not just Jonesboro but the whole region.”

Guinn said he is pleased that the grant will serve Stop the Bleeding’s “trauma zone,” which is very rural and medically underserved.

“This grant will allow for 600 more trained officers to assist in an emergency until professional EMS arrives,” he said. “There is no doubt that lives will be saved in Northeast Arkansas as a result of this.”

The Northeast Arkansas Trauma Zone extends from Randolph and Clay County on the Missouri border and south to Phillips County. It includes the majority of the Arkansas Delta region.

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