



## **SHEPHERDSTOWN FIRE DEPARTMENT, INC.**

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(304)876-2311 • [www.shepherdstownfiredepartment.com](http://www.shepherdstownfiredepartment.com)

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**For Immediate Release**  
**September 14, 2016**

### **Shepherdstown Town Council Invests in Life Saving**

*Shepherdstown, WV*— For years, the volunteers of the Shepherdstown Fire Department, Inc. watched as surrounding jurisdictions were able to purchase automated CPR devices. “We run a lot of calls with Washington County, MD, Sharpsburg Company 19, and they have had these devices for years, says EMS Chief Marshall DeMeritt, “we’ve been able to see firsthand the benefits of such a device.” Chief DeMeritt continued, “we’ve also watched the Friendship Fire Company of Harpers Ferry use them, and Chief Kain has shared with me the great success his organization has had with them. Unfortunately, we just couldn’t afford one.” The department has now afforded one due to a generous gift of \$10,000 from the Shepherdstown Town Council.



**Shepherdstown Mayor, Jim Auxer, presents a \$10,000 check to EMS Chief Marshall DeMeritt of the Shepherdstown Fire Department. The Lucas 2 CPR Device can be seen between them.**

The Shepherdstown Fire Department runs approximately 1100 EMS calls a year in Shepherdstown and the surrounding area. Of those 1100 calls annually, about 55 of them are cardiac arrests. EMS Chief DeMeritt explains that, “as you can imagine, a cardiac arrest is a very intense scenario that requires highly trained individuals. More so than the medications, or even the airway, as outlined in the Journal of Emergency Medicine, the number one life saving measure is high quality CPR. With the gift from the Town Council, we can use a tool to avoid human error, and improve our patient care.” EMS Chief DeMeritt further explains that with manual CPR, many factors come into play including provider fatigue, physical ability limits, focus on several simultaneous tasks, and poor-quality CPR during transportation on a stretcher and in the back of an ambulance. “Just maintaining the proper rate is a major challenge while in the back of an ambulance. The use of



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automatic mechanical CPR devices, such as the Lucas 2, can provide a consistent rate and depth of compression and is one way of improving the quality of chest compression, and it will also contribute to greater EMS personnel safety by allowing our providers to remain seated in the back of the ambulance,” said EMS Chief DeMeritt.

The Shepherdstown Fire Department was presented the \$10,000 check by the Shepherdstown Town Council in the regular Town Council meeting which took place on September 13, 2016 at the Town Hall on King Street in Shepherdstown.

### **About the Shepherdstown Fire Department**

Founded in 1792, the Shepherdstown Fire Department is the oldest Fire Department in the State of West Virginia. The department is located at 8052 Martinsburg Pike in Shepherdstown, WV. The service area includes approximately 53 square miles in Jefferson County, WV., and the department responds on mutual aid calls to Berkeley County, WV and Washington County, Maryland. The company provides fire suppression, rescue operations, and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) through the operations of 9 apparatus, with approximately 50 active volunteers. The department hosts a weekly bingo and multiple fundraisers annually – including a sportsman’s bash, and our famous apple butter. For more information, please visit [www.shepherdstownfiredepartment.com](http://www.shepherdstownfiredepartment.com).

### **About Physio-Control**

Physio-Control, Inc. is headquartered in Redmond, Washington. The company was founded in 1955 and is the world’s leading provider of professional emergency medical response solutions that predict or intervene in life-threatening emergencies. The company’s products include LIFEPAK® monitor/defibrillators and automated external defibrillators, the LIFENET® System, HealthEMS® electronic patient care reporting (ePCR) software, LUCAS® 2 Chest Compression System, TrueCPR™ coaching device, McGrath® MAC EMS video laryngoscope and implementation for PulsePoint mobile bystander response applications. Learn more at [www.physio-control.com](http://www.physio-control.com)

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### **For more information:**

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