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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PUTNAM COUNTY, TN – Ben Roethlisberger Foundation Grant K9 Joins Putnam County Sheriff's Office

In November 2014, the Putnam County Sheriff's Office was selected to receive a grant from the Ben Roethlisberger Foundation at The Giving Back Fund to purchase a new K9 dog and provide training and equipment for the K9 unit. The new K9, "Bolt", is a 19-month old Belgian Malinois from Little Rock K9, a police canine training facility in Arkansas. Bolt serves as a dual-purpose K9 working as a road patrol and drug enforcement dog with veteran handler, Deputy Richard Cobble.

"We selected Bolt from a number of promising dogs at the facility in Little Rock for his confidence, excellent skills, and sociability," said Major Greg Whittaker, a former K9 Deputy who commands the K9 Unit at the Putnam County Sheriff's Office. "He is able to work independently and has tremendous concentration when faced with multiple challenges out in the field. He is a very impressive dog."

The Ben Roethlisberger Foundation at The Giving Back Fund, founded by Pittsburgh Steelers quarterback Ben Roethlisberger, disperses grants to police and fire departments' canine units throughout the U.S.

"As Sheriff of Putnam County, Tennessee, I am proud and honored to lead the agency that has been chosen as a recipient of a Ben Roethlisberger Foundation K9 grant," said Eddie Farris. "The citizens of Putnam County rely on our agency to provide a safe community. To achieve this, it is vital for us to have quality trained personnel and resources. The Ben Roethlisberger Foundation grant has enabled our agency to retire one of our older K9's and purchase a new narcotics/patrol dog as well as pay for the necessary training/certification for our handlers and equip our patrol dogs with safety vests."

Putnam County, similar to Nashville's Davidson County, is a partner in the State of Tennessee Emergency Management Agency's Middle Region. Through this collaborative partnership, the Putnam County Sheriff's Office is committed to responding within the region with all special designated assets, such as K9 units, for large-scale events as well as officer and community safety.

In fact, just two days after joining the Putnam County Sheriff's Office, Bolt and Deputy Cobble assisted Jackson County narcotics investigators on a traffic stop that yielded one felony and two misdemeanor drug charges. The Jackson County detectives later wrote saying, "Thank you. We could not have done it without your assistance."

"Earning the Public Trust Every Day!"

“Our K9s are important to us and to the citizens we serve. They help track missing people, locate subjects, narcotics and explosive devices as well as provide extra safety for officers who must confront very dangerous situations,” added Sheriff Farris. “Budgets have limitations. Thanks to organizations like the Ben Roethlisberger Foundation we will be able to advance our K9 unit and provide a greater level of service to the community we serve.”

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