



## Chief's Award

The Chief's Award is given at the sole discretion of the Fire Chief to City of Mesquite employees who have consistently worked to improve the Department, and have in fact made major changes to the Department by their actions.

Tonight I will be giving awards to three members that worked tirelessly throughout 2017 to help implement new technology to bring the Department into the 21st century in both communications and database management.

**Asst. Chief Spurgin** was assigned as the City of Mesquite Project Manager for the implementation of the new Project 25 Digital Public Safety Radio System in 2012. A new communications system was necessary to replace an aging analog system that had reached the end of its service life, and was slated for non-support by the manufacturer within a few short years. Chief Spurgin was joined by then Emergency Management Coordinator Raymond Rivas to set out and work with a contracted communication consultant to determine the scope of the project. After many meetings, it was decided it was advantageous for both the City of Garland and Mesquite to build a joint radio system. The new system coverage and infrastructure was furthered strengthened when the cities of Rowlett and Sachse also joined in as participating entities giving a potential system footprint covering most of eastern Dallas County and into northwest Kaufman County. The design, bidding and construction of the new system has taken several years to complete,

but in 2017 the Garland, Mesquite, Rowlett and Sachse P25 radio system went live. Although it has taken many dedicated individuals from all participating cities to make this project a success, Asst. Chief Spurgin's dedication, attention to detail, and follow through has contributed greatly to its success. It is my honor to give the Fire Chief's Award to Asst. Chief Larry Spurgin for his work on the new GMRS P25 Radio System.

**Captain Brian Staples** was assigned as the Fire Department Liaison for the implementation of a new public safety computer aided dispatch system in 2016. During much of 2016 and 2017 Captain Staples spent many hours working with our communication center to program and test the new system for fire department responses. The new system is very complex and integrates with many existing and new public safety computer programs and other technologies. As with most new highly customized computer systems, problems surfaced that had to be systematically researched and solved. Brian has worked with the CAD implementation team, CAD system vendor, P25 Radio vendor, Priority Dispatch EMS system vendor, Fire and EMS records management vendor, Mesquite IT Department, Mesquite GIS Division, communications center manager and supervisor, as well as my office to insure that the new CAD system effectively recommends and notifies MFD resources of emergency incidents in our City. Without Captain Staple's in-depth knowledge of the Mesquite Fire Department operations, the implementation of the CAD system would have been lengthier and desired efficiencies of the new technology unobtainable. I would like to award the Fire Chief's Award to Captain Brian Staples for his work on the new public safety computerized dispatching system.

**Lieutenant Darrel Evans** was assigned to the City of Mesquite Energov project in 2016. The project design was to bring together all of the City of Mesquite permit, development plan management, building, fire, and code inspection processes into one integrated paperless system.

Configuration and training for the new system took approximately one year. During that timeframe, Lt. Evans not only provided expertise for the Fire Department, but also became a super user and resource for the entire project team. Due to his hard work and ability to master a new skillset, the fire department was one of the first to test the new system. Lt. Evans continues to provide support and assistance to the Energov project, his dedication to the overall goal of the project vision has moved the City of Mesquite closer in having a tightly integrated system for our development community. I would like to honor Lt. Darrel Evans by awarding him the Chief's award.