

ACTION NO. _____

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AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF ROANOKE COUNTY, VIRGINIA HELD AT THE ROANOKE COUNTY ADMINISTRATION CENTER

MEETING DATE: July 26, 2011

AGENDA ITEM: Recognizing Fire & Rescue for receiving two Regional EMS Awards

SUBMITTED BY: Richard E. Burch Jr.
Fire/Rescue Chief

APPROVED BY: B. Clayton Goodman III
County Administrator

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S COMMENTS:

SUMMARY OF INFORMATION:

Roanoke County Fire & Rescue Department has received two 2011 Regional Awards for Outstanding Contributions to EMS. The seventh annual Western Virginia EMS Council Awards were presented at the awards banquet at the Salem Civic Center on June 16, 2011.

The Western Virginia EMS Council Awards were established in 2004 as a formal recognition of outstanding contributions to EMS in the Western Region of Virginia. Nominees are carefully reviewed and selected by the Awards Selection Committee made up of the 2010 regional award winners. The awards are presented annually to recipients in ten categories. The winners in the ten categories from the 11 EMS regions of the Commonwealth will move on to be considered for the 2011 Governor's Awards for Outstanding Contribution to EMS in Virginia.

Roanoke County Fire & Rescue received the following Regional Awards this year:

REGIONAL AWARD EXCELLENCE IN EMS

Division Chief Steve Simon was selected for the highest honor awarded by Western Virginia EMS Council for his dedication to improving the Emergency Medical Care System at the local, state and national levels. Chief Simon started his Fire/EMS career in 1986 in Prince William County then moving to the Roanoke area in 1992 accepting a job with Roanoke City as a paramedic. In 1994 Chief Simon was hired by Roanoke County Fire and Rescue Department as a paramedic/firefighter moving up the ranks to his current held position since 2003 as Division Chief. Chief Simon has been involved with countless EMS

initiatives and programs that have directly helped improve the quality of EMS in Roanoke County and throughout the State.

In 2000, Chief Simon was recognized by the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) for implementation of programs to improve the care of sick or injured children which earned him a spot as a volunteer advisor and editor with the AAP for paramedic training programs. Chief Simon was the program manager for our current Ambulance Transport Billing Program which has been recognized as a model by the Virginia Department of Health for other local governments to follow. Chief Simon was one of the co-founders of the current Regional EMT-Intermediate (paramedic training) program and continues to provide guidance to the program. Chief Simon's commitment to training is apparent in his personal devotion to improve himself where he has obtained his Masters Degree and a graduate of the Executive Fire Officer Program from the National Fire Academy along with countless other certifications.

REGIONAL AWARD TO THE OUTSTANDING EMS ADMINISTRATOR

Battalion Chief William "Bill" Duff was selected as the Outstanding EMS Administrator by Western Virginia EMS Council. Chief Duff began his career in EMS as a 16 year old with the Cave Spring Volunteer First Aid Crew in 1981. Chief Duff served with the Cave Spring Volunteer First Aid Crew for seven years and became a life member; today he still participates in fund raising events for the crew. In 1986 the County of Roanoke set out to hire its first paramedic/firefighters. Chief Duff was the youngest to be hired in the first group of five.

Since 1986, Chief Duff has strived to provide the best quality of care to patients and helping hands to the community. Chief Duff worked very diligently to become an excellent EMS provider and is always researching and looking for the most up to date medical advancements for pre-hospital providers. Chief Duff has served as a mentor to numerous newly certified BLS & ALS providers. Chief Duff now serves the County of Roanoke as the Battalion Chief of EMS. He leads this operational section with enthusiasm and dedication. His passion and dedication does not stop within the community. Chief Duff works with the volunteer organizations throughout the County and the Western Region of Virginia. Chief Duff is well recognized within the EMS community and has such a positive impact in developing programs that can be used throughout the region. He has been passionate about successfully developing programs in pediatric transportation and school bus emergencies.

Chief Duff has been instrumental in leading the heart alert program with Carillion Clinic and maintaining great relations with HCA Lewis Gale Hospital within our community. Chief Duff also serves on the Western Virginia EMS Council Performance Improvements Committee, where he reviews EMS calls for protocol compliance to improve overall patient care within the region as well as customers satisfaction in the EMS system. He also serves on the Protocol Committee with Western Virginia EMS Council.