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"A GREAT PLACE TO LIVE"

PRESS RELEASE

Fire Department Holds Badge Pinning Ceremony

Watauga, Texas – In a badge pinning ceremony held today at the Watauga Central Fire Station, the City of Watauga recognized and presented new and promoted members of the Watauga Fire Department to the department, city officials, and the community.

Battalion Chief Randy Barkley introduced new recruit Alan Thomas who was hired in September of 2013. At the time of his hiring, Thomas was certified as a paramedic, but had not completed his basic firefighter training. After being hired, Thomas successfully completed his Basic Fire Training thru the Training Division Online Fire Academy and is now certified as a Structural Firefighter with the Texas Commission on Fire Protection. Thomas also completed the Watauga Fire Department Field Training Process.



Battalion Chief Barkley also introduced newly promoted Lieutenant Robert Boettcher. Boettcher was hired by the City of Watauga in June of 2008. After being hired, Boettcher successfully completed the Basic Fire Academy and the Field Training Process. Boettcher has since obtained his certification as a Fire Instructor, Hazardous Material Technician and Driver Operator thru the State of Texas. As a result of his commitment to further education he also was awarded his Intermediate Firefighter Certification.

Battalion Chief Barkley also introduced newly promoted Battalion Chief Brian Hatfield. Hatfield was hired by the City of Watauga in September of 2000. He successfully completed the Basic Fire Academy and Field Training Process. In January 2008, Hatfield was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant where he has served for the last seven years. During this



time, Hatfield successfully obtained certification as a Fire Instructor II, Fire Officer I, Incident Safety Officer, Fire Inspector and Wild Land Firefighter thru the State of Texas. He has also been awarded his Advanced Firefighter Certification from the State as well.

Finally, Battalion Chief Barkley recognized Firefighter Thomas for his exemplary service in his duties in the position of Field Training Officer for the City of Watauga Fire Department. Thomas, who began working with the City of Watauga Fire Department in June of 2007, is an Intermediate Structural Firefighter, Hazardous Materials Technician, Certified Driver/Operator and a Field Training Officer.



The City of Watauga Fire Department has worked and continues to work to develop a culture that honors the importance of each individual firefighter's contribution, while maintaining the understanding that together we are stronger than we are apart. This culture is driven by the Fire Department mission statement which is to safeguard the lives and property and to enhance the quality of life of any person that resides in, works in, or visits the City of Watauga through a commitment to service with Pride, Respect, Teamwork and Safety.