

BROOME COUNTY FIREFIGHTERS' ASSOCIATION

BROOME COUNTY, NEW YORK

HARPURSVILLE CHIEF JEFF BUCKLER NAMED “FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR”

At the March 4, 2011, meeting of the Broome County Firefighters' Association, held at the Harpursville fire station, the Association gave out the annual William Grace “Firefighter of the Year Award”. This year's award went to Harpursville Chief Jeff Buckler. Buckler was nominated by members of his department.



The award is named for former chief William Grace of the

Johnson City Fire Department who was a long time, very active member of the Broome County Firefighters' Association.

Congratulations to Jeff on receiving this award!

His nomination letter reads:

“The members of the Harpursville Fire Department would like to nominate Jeffrey Buckler, Chief of the Harpursville Fire Department as a candidate for the Broome county Firefighter of the Year.

“Jeffrey is a fourth generation firefighter. He joined the Department in December 1988. Since then he has held various offices and has been Chief since 2001. Jeff is totally dedicated to the fire service. He commits many, many hours to the fire department. He is pro active in the operations of our fire department and because of his efforts, the other three departments within the town have also benefitted in such projects as the fire numbering of all the streets and roads in the town. He was successful in putting together a plan for the Town of Colesville to purchase Scott Air Packs for the departments within out town so that the packs are the same for the neighboring departments. Last year, he obtained money from the State of New York and the town of Colesville to purchase a new air compressor to fill the air bottles for the four companies of the town. Last year he also worked with West Colesville Fire Department and the two companies together purchased a covered trailer which is equipped with equipment for fighting brush fires. This year, again working with West Colesville, the two companies purchased another trailer which carries our water/ice rescue equipment.

In 2004, our fire department secured a loan from the New York State Emergency Services Revolving Loan and constructed a second station on Belden Hill which is half way between Sanitaria Springs Fire Company and the Harpursville Fire Department. We broke ground for the station in July and a construction company put up the shell of the building. The members of the

Harpursville Fire Department, including the Chief, worked very hard to complete the electrical, plumbing and piping to finish the building. An agreement was put together with Sanitaria Springs Fire Company to share the cost of the utilities on the building. In December 2004, the building was complete enough to have our annual Christmas party there. This station is now referred to as the Mosher Stations and is the Emergency Operations Center for the Town of Colesville.

In 2004, Jeffrey inspired the firefighters to take the first responder classes and start a med team. This has been very successful. The med team responds to medical emergencies to assist the Colesville Volunteer Ambulance Service.

As in any small fire department, money is always a problem; Jeff has applied for and has received funds from the state at least five times in matching forestry grant funds. He has also been the key person in applying for the Federal Assistance to Firefighters program and has successfully been awarded this grant twice, resulting in \$190,000.00 in equipment for our fire company. Without his ambition we would not have received these funds.

Jeff headed and worked diligently with neighboring department to form the Eastern Broome Water Rescue Team. He secured money from the State of New York and Senator Tomas Libous to purchase a hovercraft that can respond to water and ice rescue emergencies.

Jeff has always been very active in the community. He has been a member of the Sons of the American Legion for 17 years. He was often called upon to play "Taps" on his trumpet for funerals and Memorial Day Services. He was in scouting and for his Eagle project he researched the history and wrote a booklet of the history of the Harpursville Fire Department for the 50th anniversary of the fire department. He was a member of the Marching Hornets band and has supported the band helping on occasion with their practices by controlling traffic for their marching practices. He is (sic) also been very supportive with the youth baseball organization, delivering water to the grounds to keep the grass green and growing. Jeff has worked with other organizations within the town each year to sponsor the "Super Celebration" in July. The fire department is very involved in this annual event which includes a parade, fireworks, food and small vendors, and activities to bring the people of the town together for a day of fun.

Jeff is very pro-active in the fire service. He truly believes in the training of the firefighters and he leads by example. He offers training sessions each Tuesday morning and Tuesday evening for members as well as one weekend session each month to accommodate the members work schedules. In 2008, he personally logged 451.5 hours of training. In 2009, he personally logged 345.5 hours of training. The membership averaged 134.5 hours of training per member for the year. We are attaching a list of the classes he has completed to this letter

Jeff works full-time as an emergency dispatcher for Broome County Emergency Services and in the past was a fire investigator for Broome County.

Jeff is extremely dedicated to the fire service. His volunteer efforts have greatly affected our fire department, other fire departments and our community."

The letter was signed by 14 officers and members of the Harpursville Fire Department.