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Sally Ellertson
Public Information Officer
141 West Renfro
Burleson, Texas 76028-4261
817-426-9622
F: 817-426-9390
sellertson@burlesontx.com
www.burlesontx.com

Tackling a huge project on top of doing his regular duties as a fire investigator/inspector for the City of Burleson's Fire Marshal's Office earned David Butler the 2014 Employee of the Year honors. He shared that award with Lisa Kay Edwards, utility customer service supervisor, who was recognized for her exemplary customer service. Both were honored at the City's Dec. 11 annual awards luncheon.

Butler earned Employee of the Quarter honors for the first quarter of 2014 for coordinating the City's new state-of-the-art radio system.

"David played a critical role in helping evaluate and implement our new communication system and coordinating with multiple city departments," City Manager Dale Cheatham said. "This was a complex undertaking and David's work on this project is worthy of the recognition he has received."

The previous radio equipment allowed the City's police and fire personnel to communicate directly with one another and other City departments. It did not allow Burleson to communicate directly with other agencies, with which they had mutual aid agreements, because those agencies operated on a different radio frequency. With the new system, Burleson can communicate with most fire and police departments in Johnson and Tarrant counties plus MedStar, CareFlite, and the Johnson County Sheriff's Office.

Fiscal Year 2014 wasn't the first time Butler has worked on the radio system. In 2006 he helped oversee the installation of that radio system. His knowledge came from years of working part time installing and programming radios and satellite systems in emergency vehicles and command trucks throughout the state.

"David is the type of employee who every director would want on their team," Fire Marshal Stacy Singleton said. "He is a team player and is always willing to jump in and help anywhere he can. David was instrumental in helping get the new public safety radio system up and running. His expertise in this area was valuable to the success of the project. The Burleson Fire Marshal's Office is honored to have him on our team. He is well deserving of this award."

Butler is certified as a peace officer, advance firefighter, intermediate fire inspector and intermediate arson investigator. He was hired as a firefighter with the Burlison Fire Department in April 1998, as one of the City's first four career firefighters. He made the transition to the fire marshal's office in January 2006.

Four Employees of the Quarter were nominated by their peers in 2014, then a committee of four selected each quarter's winner. The criteria focused on the City's ethics statement - efficiency, transparency, honesty, innovation and customer service.

The first quarter focused on public safety employees (fire department, fire marshal's office and police department). The second quarter was for parks, recreation, golf, and the library. Amanda Goshey, reference public services librarian, won the honors for the second quarter. The category for the third quarter was public works, and Edwards was selected as that winner. And the fourth quarter was for administrative services. Paula Skundberg, executive assistant in the city secretary's office, won the final Employee of the Quarter award.