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Six top awards were presented, five were honored with Lifesaving Awards, four took home Meritorious Conduct awards, 14 received Police Commendations, and one earned a Community Service award at the Burleson Police Department's annual banquet Feb. 25.

The top award winners include:

- Officer Andrew Prieskorn – Officer of the Year
- Sgt. Jody Trumble – Supervisor of the Year
- Karen Dawkins/Public Safety Communications Supervisor – Civilian of the Year
- Officer Jason Tauch – Rookie Officer of the Year
- Officers Cameron Pilgrim and Shayne Morrison – Most Outstanding Community Policing Award
- Officer Tiffany Bauereisen – Ofelia Blair Character Award

Lifesaving awards were presented to Dispatcher Verla Myers, Officer Tauch, Officer Tracey Fowler, Sgt. Trumble, and Officer Johnny Schumacher (see separate press release).

Meritorious Conduct awards went to Sgt. Darin Pool, Capt. Randy Crum, Capt. Melvin McGuire, and Gayla Robison/property and evidence room coordinator.

Sgt. Pool was recognized for contacting the nursing homes in the city to make sure that no one was left alone during the Christmas season. He partnered with the directors of the homes and coordinated the donation of items for residents who did not have family.

Captains Crum and McGuire were honored for their part in the development and planning of the new police building that opened at 1161 S.W. Wilshire Blvd. in November 2015.

Gayla Robison was noted for bringing public acclaim to the department through her dedication to the field of property and evidence management and for her efficiency in cataloging and having property in the evidence room moved to the new facility.

Police Commendation Awards were presented to Det. Michael Owen, Det. Chaz Garrett, Det. Tim Mabry (2), Sgt. Trumble, Officer Tauch, Officer Shelly Henken, Officer Morrison, Det. David Feucht, Det. Nick Grace, Investigator Larry Sparks, Officer Brandon Glass, Officer Trey Collard, and Sgt. Wes Routson.

Owen was selected as a result of his six-month investigation into a complaint by a local retailer who said that he was being targeted by suspects who used cloned credit cards to commit fraud and theft. That investigation ultimately resulted in the recovery of 190 cloned credit cards, \$10,000 in cash and money orders, and the arrest of four suspects.

Detectives Garrett and Mabry were assigned to investigate a serial theft suspect involved in high dollar jewelry thefts throughout the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex (including a nearly \$4,000 theft that occurred in Burleson). The pair's investigation led to the identification and arrest of the suspect.

Sgt. Trumble responded to a suspicious person call that turned in to an emotionally distraught person who wanted officers to use deadly force. She built a report with the person and persuaded him to be transported for treatment.

Officers Tauch and Henken worked together to arrest a juvenile who was involved in approximately 15 car burglaries. The officers were working a neighborhood that had been targeted by a serial car burglar when they found the juvenile, and then recovered property taken from the 15 vehicles.

Officer Morrison was the officer who broke the case on a fatality hit-and-run crash that resulted in the death of a motorcyclist. The officer found a vehicle, which matched the description of the one that hit the motorcyclist, in a local auto body shop. That discovery led to the identification and arrest of the driver.

Det. Mabry, a member of the department's accident investigation team, was honored again, this time for adding complex fatality crashes to his regular workload as a detective.

Det. Feucht was commended for helping facilitate and train a new Criminal Investigations Division supervisor.

Det. Grace was honored for the role he played in recovering a juvenile who had run away from home. The detective used media attention (social media and news media) as well as his relationships with the Attorney General's Office and the Center for Missing and Exploited children to recover the juvenile. The investigation resulted in the prosecution of several adults.

Inv. Sparks, Officer Glass, Officer Collard and Sgt. Routson worked together to apprehend a wanted fugitive who was believed to be in the Burleson area. Sparks was contacted by a federal law enforcement agency and within 36 hours the four were able to develop a plan, and then locate and arrest the fugitive.

Taking the cake at this year's awards banquet is Det. Chaz Garrett, who dressed in his Star Wars Storm Trooper costume as a way to impact the youth of the community. He reached out even farther by driving to Celina, Texas, to surprise a child during lunch. That trip turned into a full school assembly where the detective, aka Storm Trooper, posed for pictures. That service garnered Garrett a Community Service award.