



MAYOR'S GALLERY: FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR AND RUNNER-UPS



Kelli Riddle, Chuck Riddle, Mayor Gary Fuller, Assistant Chief Ashley Harmon, Chief Byron Prather, Phillip Bell, Chance Bell (not pictured: Lt. Stephanie Durbin)

Congratulations to Firefighter of the Year Chuck Riddle and Runner-Ups James Lamar Baker and Lt. Stephanie Durbin.

Chuck Riddle: Firefighter Riddle is driven by a strong sense of community and helping others. He is always ready to assist his fellow firefighters, law enforcement, first responders, and others in need. He is a dependable employee who always reports for duty early and ready for work. His backgrounds in military, teaching, and law enforcement are an asset to the Opelika Fire Department and the community for which he serves.

James Lamar Baker:

On the first day that Bell began his career he has not hesitated to step forward and perform his job duties. Phillip Bell is known to all he works with by his nickname "FRY". Phillip "FRY" Bell has become a well-respected and well-liked employee and the feelings become stronger each day. Bell places the well-being

of others that he works with and the ones that he has chosen to protect well in advance of his own. This dedication to life safety has been tested on two momentous occasions during his career.

Stephanie Durbin: Lt. Stephanie Durbin is a tremendous asset to the City of Opelika Fire Department. She is an officer that fellow firefighters are eager to follow because of her wealth of knowledge and her desire to make sure all of her crew make it home at the end of their shift. Lt. Durbin stays up to date with fire behavior and firefighting strategies and tactics and makes sure to pass on to her shift the knowledge she acquires. Many times Lt. Durbin has been called upon to step up and fill the role of the shift Captain. This is a testament of the confidence that her Battalion Chief and the Department place in her. Lt. Durbin is of the mindset that a good firefighter is a well-trained.