

FIRE CHIEF OF THE YEAR

Join us as we celebrate the accomplishments that earned our Fire Chief, TJ McLamb, the title of NC Fire Chief Association's Fire Chief of the Year. He truly is **SPRING LAKE STRONG!**

On Saturday, February 7, 2015, the North Carolina Association of Fire Chiefs named TJ McLamb, Spring Lake's Fire Chief, Fire Chief of the Year.

The mission of the North Carolina Association of Fire Chiefs is to provide a wide range of programs designed to meet the needs and enhance the skills of Fire Service Managers, so they may better protect and educate the fire service and public from the adverse effects of fire, sudden medical emergencies, or exposure of dangerous conditions created by either man or nature.

There are over 1100 members of this association. From all the nominees, Chief McLamb was selected to hold this prestigious title.

The selection criteria for this title were tough. It is not an award that is based on an individual act or a year of work. It is based on a life time of achievements. They were looking for an individual whose actions and leadership in their profession, home, community and country, serve as an example and challenge for not only all other chief fire executives throughout the southeast, but also in his department, community, and personal life. All recommendations submitted had to clearly show how he made a difference in the life of the one making the recommendation as well as in the life of others.

Specific examples of accomplishments, contributions, service both professionally and throughout our community and extended areas had to be clearly communicated character, demeanor, leadership and attributions needed to be not only communicated but examples provided.

Finally, all recommendation submitted had to be first hand accounts that had been personally witnessed or have knowledge of; things the Chief had led, supported, and contributed for the betterment of





“While he is a great asset to our church, TJ’s greatest qualities are those of his exceptional faith, his love and dedication to his family and work with the fire service. He is a man of exceptional character that is consciously lived out every day in his home as a husband and fatherland in his pride and professional attitude as Chief of the Spring Lake Fire Department”

*~Steve Swagger
Pastor, Layton Chapel Baptist Church*



“Chief is always looking for ways for us to engage with the community. He is supportive of our efforts to get out in the community and work on educating all groups on preventive measures. He is also encouraging of us as a department to make sure we are trained, prepared and equipped to handle all aspects of our job. He makes sure we understand and takes time to learn what motivates us so we can better do our jobs and specialize in areas suitable for us. He is a true leader in his knowledge and actions. We’ve grown stronger since he’s been here. I’m honored to call him friend.

*~Jason Williams
Assistant Chief SLFD*

“When the Chief started in Spring Lake, he inquired about all the different opportunities for the department to participate in. Since that time, the Chief has supported and enabled the department to get involved all aspects of injury prevention from children to senior adults. The SLFD has installed more than 2040 smoke alarms in 624 homes. They have documented 3 saves 3 incidents of smoke alarm activation involving 9 lives including 2 infants. In addition, the department has taken on child passenger seat and become a permanent checking station. Through his leadership, Chief McLamb has become a model for prevention programs. “

*~Kelly Ransdell
Deputy Director, NC Dept of Insurance , OSFM*





Chief McLamb began his career in the fire service March 1989. Since then, he has gone on to serve as fire fighter, fire inspector, lieutenant, captain, fire marshal, assistant fire chief, chief deputy fire marshal and fire chief.



Chief McLamb's certifications fill pages and the list of professional organizations he belongs to mirrors his commitment to his profession. He humbly acknowledges his accomplishments only when asked because to him, it's not about what he has done but instead what is left to do.



Chief McLamb volunteers his professional skills when he can, is a strong leader in the community where he works and lives and is a proud member of Layton Chapel Baptist Church.



He is married to Angie and together they have three beautiful children, Brooke, Faith and Seth.





The Manager's Perspective: Excerpts from his nomination letter

It has been my pleasure to work with Chief McLamb over the past few years. He has served as Chief for three years and in that time, has made an obvious, big impact at the local, county, multi-county and state level.

I have had the opportunity to work with Chief McLamb first as a fellow department head and now as his manager. It was apparent to me early on, he was a man of the highest level of ethics and character. I am very impressed with the manner in which he deals and manages the Fire Department and life in general.

His Christian faith is apparent in all he does. This makes him one of the steadiest and most consistent people I know - both personally and professionally. He strives to run things the right way, whether by policy, industry practice or best practice. He is always looking for ways to improve things. He craves knowledge. He is humble enough to admit when he doesn't know something and bold enough to step up and learn it. He embodies the qualities one would want as a role model serving in a leadership role.

On a very limited budget, Chief McLamb has mastered making the the best use of his budget. He knows the importance of making use of each purchase, prioritizing and taking advantages of resources available to assist in purchases such as grants.

His demeanor has had a calming effect on the entire organization. He carries a real sense of urgency yet never displays nor falls into a panic mode.

He has the best interest of the safety of the residents at heart. Between initiatives for fall prevention and school education, he still strives to do more. His, "No Home Left Behind" has installed hundreds of smoke alarms in homes in Spring Lake, received state recognition and the lives it may have saved cannot be measured.

There is no hesitation in my recommendation for Chief McLamb for Fire Chief of the Year. He is a man of integrity, honesty and a passion for his profession and people. We are blessed to have him as our Fire Chief.



As Mayor, I am proud to support our Fire Chief. He is more than deserving of this honor. He is a strong leader in our community. His department personifies the best of Spring Lake and leads the way in making Spring Lake a better place to live, work and play. They truly have the best interest of everyone from residents to businesses at heart. They work tirelessly to ensure safety is first. They know prevention is the key. They are well trained, they are quick to respond and above all else, they are responsive to the needs of everyone they come in contact with. This is mainly due to the outstanding leadership of Chief McLamb. He is an asset to our Town. He is Spring Lake Strong!



Spring Lake Fire Department
 TJ McLamb, Chief
 Jason Williams, Assistant Chief

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Town of Spring Lake

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