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He pitches in wherever and whenever needed and is “always glad to help anyone who needs it.” That’s how Jay Davis, Officer of the Year for the Burleson Police Department, was described in a nomination letter written by telecommunications operator Desire Norman. Davis was one of four officers nominated for the honor that was awarded at the annual police banquet Feb. 17.

The 28-year-old honoree is a Fort Worth native. He serves in the Burleson Police Department’s traffic unit.

Davis earned his bachelor’s degree from Texas Christian University in 2005. Davis majored in criminal justice and minored in Spanish. Davis is the go-to officer when a translator is needed for a Spanish-speaking victim, complainant or suspect. Davis was hired by the Burleson Police Department in June 2005, went through the North Central Texas Council of Government Police Academy, and graduated in November 2005. Davis is part of the Burleson Police Department’s Honor Guard and Crisis Negotiations Team. He is a certified crash investigator as well as a Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Officers Standards (TCLEOSE) instructor.

Davis said he chose the Burleson Police Department because “it is a smaller department where you are not a number, you are a name.” His mentor with Burleson has been Officer Paul Lancaster, who was also honored this year with the department’s first award for Most Outstanding Community Policing. Davis also credited his parents as his mentors.

Davis “often goes above and beyond the normal call of duty,” according to the nomination. “He does his normal job duties, without complaint, and helps when patrol is shorthanded or if the call load is backed up. He recently came in on his day off to help with patrol and he often works holidays even though he doesn’t have to.”

The honoree’s father is a doctor of obstetrics/gynecology and his mother works as an office manager. Davis has two younger brothers and a dog named Oreo. The Officer of the Year is engaged to be married in October.