

February 7, 2014

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The Burleson Police Department's Rookie Officer of the Year is cross trained in firefighting and law enforcement. Andrew Prieskorn was presented with the top Rookie award at the department's annual banquet Jan. 30.

"I was very excited and proud," Prieskorn said of the honor.

Prieskorn, 33, was hired by Burleson on Aug. 1, 2012. He hails from Westland, Michigan. His father is the quality control manager for a plumbing company and his mother is a stay-at-home mom. Prieskorn has one older sister.

Before he became a police officer, the award winner worked for Farmington Hill, Michigan, as a paid on-call firefighter. He earned a two-year degree in paramedic sciences, and was certified as a Fire Officer 1, Fire Officer 2, emergency medical technician (EMT), and paramedic. He is also certified in hazardous materials operations and has his basic TCLEOSE (Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Officer Standards and Education) certification.

The honoree said he was living in north Dallas when he heard about the job in Burleson. "I found the people in Burleson to be down to earth and very friendly."

In his first year with the department, Prieskorn has already gotten involved in Burleson Police Explorer Post #4911 as an advisor, is the treasurer for the Burleson Police Officers Association, and was one of the police volunteers at the City's first Burleson Fishing Adventures program for children in 2013.

According to the nomination letter, Prieskorn "has shown his dedication to his career and his fellow officers. He is willing to help when needed and goes out of his way to ask questions to ensure he is clear on his understanding of tasks that are asked of him. He will continue to be a vital part of our department."

Prieskorn is married and is the father of two daughters, two years old and five years old.