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David Butler went “above and beyond his daily duties” in coordinating the City's new “state-of-the-art radio system.” That dedication earned the fire investigator/inspector the City's first Employee of the Quarter honor for 2014. Butler was honored at the April 21 city council meeting.

The previous equipment allowed the City's police and fire personnel to communicate directly with one another and other City departments. It did not allow Burleson to communicate directly with other agencies, with which they had mutual aid agreements, because those agencies operated on a different radio frequency. With the new system, Burleson can communicate with most fire and police departments in Johnson and Tarrant counties plus MedStar, CareFlite, and the Johnson County Sheriff's Office.

“The system is a regional system that, when it is all done, will cover all of Tarrant, Johnson and some surrounding counties,” Butler said. “From the first meeting to actually having the system go live was about two years.”

This wasn't the first time Butler has worked on the radio system. In 2006 he helped oversee the installation of that radio system. His knowledge came from years of working part time installing and programming radios and satellite systems in emergency vehicles and command trucks throughout the state.

“David's role in this project was instrumental,” Tom Foster, deputy chief over operations with the Burleson Fire Department, said. “He spent hours writing templates that would allow us to communicate with our surrounding cities at the turn of a dial. He sent countless emails to receive written permission from other agencies to use their talk groups and he programmed and installed existing radios in fire apparatus to ease the burden for when the final system was installed by the contractor. We cannot begin to calculate the dollar savings that David has saved the City for all his tireless work.”

City employees submitted nominations for the January-March quarterly award, which focused on public safety employees (fire department, fire marshal's office and police department). The criteria focused on the City's ethics statement - efficiency, transparency, honesty, innovation and customer service.

Butler is certified as a peace officer, advance firefighter, intermediate fire inspector and intermediate arson investigator. He was hired as a firefighter with the Burleson Fire Department in April 1998, as one of the City's first four career firefighters. He made the transition to the fire marshal's office in January 2006.