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He may be a rookie firefighter for the Burleson Fire Department, but Josh Stanton is no stranger to the field of firefighting. His attitude and work ethic earned Stanton the Burleson Fire Department's Rookie Firefighter of the Year award for 2014. He accepted the honors Jan. 17 at the department's annual banquet.

The 25-year-old firefighter/paramedic joined Burleson's department in October 2013 after serving as a firefighter/paramedic for the Kennedale Fire Department for two years.

"I wanted to work for and serve the citizens of my hometown," Stanton said when asked why he chose Burleson to pursue his career.

The Rookie of the Year is a 2007 graduate of Burleson High School. Josh's identical twin brother, Matt Stanton, is a firefighter/paramedic for the Haltom City Fire Department.

Two fire lieutenants nominated Stanton, a Burleson resident, for one of the department's top three honors for 2014. Lt. Greg Mason said Stanton "always comes to work smiling and ready to go. He has shown an eagerness to learn and the willingness to accomplish his goals. His attitude and initiative have shown he is a team player." Lt. Mike Jones focused on Stanton's attitude, saying, "He always completes any task asked of him with a 'yes sir or ma'am.' He has always shown other members of the department great respect and is willing to jump in when needed. He is the first to get up to help and the last to sit down. I would like to see Firefighter Stanton assume a mentoring role within our department for future hires."

Stanton is certified as a Firefighter Basic and a licensed paramedic. He has earned an associates of EMS Applied Sciences degree.

In addition to his full-time job, Stanton currently works part-time for Johnson County's Emergency Services District.

