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BCFR IN-HOUSE BRUSH TRUCK BUILD PROGRAM WINS NATIONAL RECOGNITION

Brevard County Fire Rescue (BCFR) has received national recognition as a 2014 National Association of Counties (NACO) Achievement Award winner for the success of its in-house building of 19 brush trucks. BCFR received recognition in the "Financial Management" category for having built 19 brush trucks in-house, saving Brevard County millions of dollars.

In 2010, Brevard County Fire Rescue (BCFR) identified the need to replace its aging brush truck fleet. This coincided with a time when the nationwide economic recession caused operating revenues to decline due to depressed property values.

Tasked with managing the brush truck fleet, Wildfire Mitigation Capt. Ryan Sumlin and then Fleet Manager Tom Hare seized the opportunity to expand the use of free military surplus vehicles by having the department's own fleet personnel do the full builds of 14 Type 4 trucks and five Type 6s. At a time when operational efficiencies were critical, the uncommon practice of doing all the work in-house allowed BCFR to custom-build the vehicles to fit their needs while saving the county \$3 million.

The program is a model of how a department can manage its resources and personnel to produce quality products customized to its needs all while saving the county a substantial amount of money. BCFR essentially tapped a new revenue source by using its own people.

The leadership of the fleet manager, who transitioned into a role where he led the fabricators in the fleet build, demonstrates how identifying and encouraging the staff to use their talents can lead to proven measureable results. BCFR produced its own fleet of top-quality customized brush trucks that will best serve the community.

Brevard County Fire Rescue

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ABOUT NACO:

The NACO Achievement Award Program started in 1970 and is a non-competitive awards program that recognizes innovative county government programs. Awards are given in 21 different categories including children and youth, criminal justice, county administration, environmental protection, information technology, health, and many more.

This link contains a map showing the location of all the winners nationwide this year:

<http://www.naco.org/programs/recognition/Pages/Achievement-Awards.aspx>

PHOTOS:

Attached are two photos showing a military surplus vehicle(before) and the Type 4 brush truck it became after the build.



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