

Employee of the Year

At the core of its function, the Paducah Police Department exists to serve. While this most often is exhibited in the form of service to the public, the reality is that public service cannot exist without having a significant level of support from within the organization. Simply put, the department's members must work as a team, helping one another, in order to provide the best service to the community.

While our sworn officers often receive public accolades (and rightly so) for their exceptional performance, it is often easy to overlook our civilian members who, day in and day out, support the external, more visible functions of the department. Like any other team, these individuals, while not always seen, are indispensable and essential for the whole of the organization.

These roles are not only defined by a job description, but are also enhanced by the manner in which they are performed. When asked what employee consistently performs their job with excellence and goes above what is required of them, "Mr. Boulton" is the name that immediately comes to mind.

Jon Boulton has served in the capacity of Parking Specialist at the Paducah Police Department for 4½ years. While his primary duties initially included addressing parking issues within the city by issuing parking citations, it became apparent, due to his excellent performance, Mr. Boulton possessed the ability to handle an increase in responsibility. Thus, he was given the duty of managing our department's fleet in conjunction with Fleet Maintenance. As with any other task he has been given, Mr. Boulton has performed this with excellence.

As any patrolman can attest, their car is their office. The vast majority of their day is spent either in or around their vehicle. When a vehicle is not running properly, this creates a significant issue for the officer, as they are left to move a large amount of equipment over to a pool car. This results in a significant inefficiency, as it removes an officer from the street for a considerable amount of time and creates a situation where the officer is often left without the best tool to complete the task at hand.

Mr. Boulton recognizes this and goes above and beyond to ensure our officers' vehicles are properly equipped and ready to go. Though he is considered a "part-time" employee, one would not know this from the level of service and responsiveness he gives the officers. While it has neither been asked nor expected of him, he routinely comes in on his personal time, using his personal resources, to transport vehicles or provide a piece of equipment for an officer working outside of normal hours. As a supervisor on afternoon shift, I can recall several instances in which he came in to work on his own accord during the evening hours or on a weekend. When asked why he was

coming in on his personal time, his response was consistently that he wanted to make sure our officers have the equipment they need to do their job.

In addition to this, Mr. Boulton has been known to refuel and wash vehicles that he has transported to and from Fleet Maintenance for officers. If an officer forgets to leave their vehicle at the police department for service, it is not outside the norm for him to go to their residence and transport their vehicle on their behalf.

In all this, Mr. Boulton does this selflessly and without complaint. He is a vocal supporter of the officers and an encouragement to the police department as a whole. For these reasons, I nominate Mr. Boulton for Employee of the Year.