



# CANDIA FIRE DEPARTMENT

11 Deerfield Road  
Candia, NH 03034

Phone 603.483.2202 – Fax 603.483.2311



## PRESS RELEASE

### **Candia Fire Department Awarded EMS Unit of the Year**

On September 18, 2022, the Candia Fire Department was awarded the Emergency Medical Service Unit of the Year by the New Hampshire Fire & Emergency Medical Services Committee of Merit. The EMS Unit of the Year is awarded to a licensed EMS unit for exemplary service to its community. Chief Dean Young and Selectwoman Susan Young were present in Concord to accept the award on behalf of the department. The award recommendation was submitted by the Hooksett Fire & Rescue Department who has been an invaluable mutual aid partner to Candia.

During the ceremony, with hundreds of New Hampshire firefighters, EMTs and Paramedics from across the State, the Town of Candia Fire Department received the EMS Unit of the Year Citation. New Hampshire Bureau of EMS Chief Justin Romanello read and presented the following citation:

“The Town of Candia stepped up when it was necessary to ensure that EMS coverage was maintained in the town with mounting coverage concerns and the need to transition from a non-transport agency to a transport agency. Hooksett Fire Department EMS Captain Joseph Stalker speaks in the nomination of a situation that occurred in Candia when ambulance coverage from a contracted service was regularly unavailable for calls within the community. Mutual aid departments from up to four towns away were having to assist Candia in 2021 due to the situation, causing stress in the area. The Town of Candia recognized that changes needed to occur and began to plan for their own transporting EMS service which could grow from the paramedic level non-transport service already being provided. Under the direction of Candia Fire & Rescue Captain Mike Kelley, the transport service took shape, funds were secured, and equipment purchased, and in January 2022, the Candia Fire & Rescue transport agency began. Without the dedication and forward thinking of Captain Kelley and leadership of Candia Fire & Rescue, strain on an already burdened area would have continued today. Despite nationally recognized staffing and funding challenges, this EMS agency has been able to build a foundation for a high-quality transporting EMS service for their community.”

The Candia Fire Department thanks the community for their continued support of the Department. Without the support of our community members, we would not be able to adequately respond to emergencies within the Town of Candia. We also thank the Hooksett Fire Department for their continued support and the NH Fire & EMS Committee of Merit for their confidence in the Candia Fire Department.

#####