

Dear Committee Members,

It is with the utmost respect that we submit this letter of consideration for Chief Paul Thon of the Frazee Fire Department for recognition as The Minnesota Fire Chief's Association Public Safety Award recipient. To say that Chief Paul Thon is a leader, among leaders would be fitting. Paul is one of the most respected men in our community. He has given our town, our region a new definition of selflessness, and is a walking example, of how every God-fearing man should conduct their day to day life!

Chief Thon has definitely set the bar high for all of us. His countless hours at City, County and regional meetings, not to mention the continuous hours spent training, re-training, and the re-evaluation of both real-time emergencies, and mock emergency situational settings too often go unmentioned or recognized. Paul Thon is a tireless teacher too. He has always taken that "extra" time needed to share his decades of experience with our newer, less experienced firefighters, always keeping their safety, and the rest of the Departments safety, his primary focus.

Chief Thon is a dedicated Husband & Father. Paul and his wife Ginni, have 3 children, 2 boys and a girl. Both Sons are in the Fire Service, one in a neighboring town and another is a wildland Firefighter on the West Coast.

Paul Thon is a local business owner, he is active in his Church, and is the first to volunteer when disaster strikes. Recent floods in the Fargo area and Tornado aid in Wadena come to mind.

Paul has held many positions over the years at FFD including: Relief Association, Treasurer, Training Officer, Assistant Chief, and Chief!

Chief Paul Thon continues to better himself and his Firefighters daily. There will come a time when Paul decides to step down and retire, and rest assured his successor will have enormous "boots" to fill!

Thank You for your time in considering Chief Paul Thon of the Frazee Fire Department for The Minnesota Fire Chief's Association Public Safety Award. In our eyes there is no one more deserving of this prestigious recognition.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Scott Geiselhart, Asst Chief FFD  
Regi Ueke, Asst Chief FFD  
Rob Tolefson, Interior Captain FFD