

# Luke Hayden Durand F.D.

**By Jennifer Krueger**  
WFJ Staff writer

It takes someone special, someone with passion to serve others and make a difference in the community they protect. Luke Hayden was honored as the WSFA 2020 Fire Fighter of the Year 2nd runner-up. Nominated by the Durand City/Rural Fire Department, Luke is admired and respected by everyone within the department and within the community they serve.

Luke has been on the Durand City/Rural Fire department for 5 years. Passion is a key component in achieving success. His hard work, dedication and commitment earned him the prestigious honor of being awarded as 2020 Durand Fire Department Fireman of the Year.

Luke was a founding part of the Durand Fire Relief Association 501(C)3, to raise funds for department needs and alleviate the burden on the public for equipment purchases. Luke has continued to serve as a board member/director since its inception 3 years ago.

Dedicated to the fire service and his community, Luke readily volunteers for any committee he can. He has been involved in the Boat Committee for the new River Rescue boat, the Fast Attack Wildland Fire Ranger Committee, and is currently heading the Quick Attack Brush Truck with the High Pressure Committee.

Luke is also heavily involved in the public safety and education programs in the area, volunteering to assist with classes and monitor fire drills every year he has been on the department.



With an attendance record of 100% for all Department meetings and Training sessions, his dedication to fire service shows. He is continually learning and bettering himself as a firefighter by attaining more training and certifications throughout his career, starting with CPR, Firefighter I/Hazmat Ops, Fire Investigation and Evidence Preservation, T.I.M.E., Managing Propane Emergencies, and most recently completing Firefighter II.

Luke is an asset that every department could hope for as he will take on any job no matter the difficulty or how mundane. Whether it be cleaning the floors, doing maintenance on the trucks, or just general cleanup, Luke is there ready to help.

“Luke is always at the station helping with whatever needs to be done day



*Luke receives his award from WSFA Director Chris Klahn.*

or night,” said Chief Jamey King.

To ensure the department is safe during the pandemic Luke recently took on the task of sanitizing the trucks by wiping down surfaces and running the UV lamps in the staff compartments after calls.

“He has a strong passion for the fire service,” said Chief King. “I have witnessed him exceed over the top; he has done an outstanding job the five years with our fire department.”

Recently joining the Sheriff’s office as a Communications/Corrections officer, Luke has become a valued member of the Sheriff’s office in a short amount of time.

“Luke is truly an asset to the community and Pepin County” said Sheriff Joel Wener. “A dedicated firefighter and always one of the people to answer the call and respond to a scene, I have witnessed Luke show compassion and understanding towards victims, witnesses, and the community he serves.”

Luke enjoys hunting and other outdoor activities when not serving his department and community.

Luke shares his values and passion for fire service with family. Luke’s brother Jeremy and late brother Kyle, as well as his girlfriend who is expecting all serve on the same department.