

Mark Lane honored for 30 years at AFD

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Aurora is lucky to have its fire chief Jeff Lane and deputy chief Mark Lane, both of whom now have served 30 years on the Aurora Fire Department, said Aurora Mayor Donnie Hastings, Jr.

"They're just good. It takes a special person to do what he's doing for 30 years," said Hastings, who awarded a plaque to Mark Lane at the Aurora City Council meeting Monday, June 5. His brother Jeff Lane marked his 30th year in September 2016.

Hastings, who served as an EMT on Aurora Emergency Rescue some years ago, noted he got burned out after 15 years, unlike the Lane brothers who have continued their community

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SUBMITTED PHOTO

Aurora City Council and mayor recognized Aurora Deputy Fire Chief Mark Lane's 30 years of service to the fire department during the council meeting Monday, June 5. From left: firefighters Alan Eldridge, Chad Gibbs, Aurora Fire Chief Jeff Lane, Bob Brunner, Aurora Mayor Donnie Hastings, Jr., Chris Bowling, Mark Lane, his son Blayze Lane, Bryon Gibbs and Keith Gable.

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service.

"It's true dedication. They're dedicated to the fire department. Aurora is lucky to have Mark," said Hastings.

"He's earned everything," said Jeff Lane of his brother. "He's dedicated his life to the city." That has included shooting off the city's fireworks and helping with city events in the past.

Mark Lane has been deputy fire chief since 2005, having been assistant chief at Aurora Fire Department Company One before the two

companies were combined. Initially, Lane advanced to second lieutenant to first lieutenant to captain.

"He kind of rose up through the ranks like I did," said Jeff Lane, who plans to honor his brother at the department's Hometown Heroes banquet in October.

"Me and him have been very close," said the fire chief, noting Mark Lane was just a year behind him. "His friends were my friends in high school," and the pair were really tight with friends and firefighters Jeff Reick, who died during a firefighting exercise years ago, and

Bryon Gibbs.

As a fire department officer, Mark Lane has to make a lot of tough decisions, and he's able to do that, said Jeff Lane.

"He deserves the recognition, the deputy chief status. When we have a crisis we work together. ... He loves the job as much as I do," said Jeff Lane.

Mark Lane, 50, and his wife Lisa have one son, Blayze Lane, also an Aurora firefighter; a daughter, Brandi; a grandson Zachary; and a new granddaughter, Anna Lynn, born June 6.