



**LAGRANGE**  
GEORGIA

*Media Release*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 9, 2019

## **LaGrange Fire Department Deputy Chief Honored for 30 Years of Service**

*LaGrange, Ga. October 9, 2019* – The City of LaGrange is honoring LaGrange Fire Department Deputy Chief Phillip Rice for thirty years of dedicated service.



Mayor Jim Thornton presents a 30-Year Pin to LaGrange Fire Department Deputy Chief Phillip Rice at Tuesday's City Council Meeting

Rice received his 30-year service pin at the LaGrange City Council meeting Tuesday (10/8) night with his wife Nicolle, mom Helen and six children by his side.



Deputy Chief Phillip Rice with family, wife Nicolle, mom Helen, LFD Fire Chief John Brant, Mayor Jim Thornton and City Councilmembers Mark Mitchell, Tom Gore, Nathan Gaskin, LeGree McCamey & Jim Arrington

Deputy Chief Rice began his career as a firefighter with the LaGrange Fire Department on September 23th, 1989. He completed Rookie School 18 on November 17, 1989 and was the recipient of the Scholastic Achievement Award. He became certified as an Emergency Medical Technical in 1991 and was promoted to Sergeant in February 1994. He was a member of the 1999 and 2000 Fire Department Muster competition teams that won state championships in back to back years. Rice also set the state record for the Georgia Fire Fighters Muster Association in the rapid dress competition.

In 2004 Rice became certified as a Paramedic. He was promoted to Lieutenant in October 2005 and Captain in November 2006. He was appointed Shift Commander of Battalion 3 in 2009. In August 2012 he graduated summa cum laude from Mercer University with a Bachelor of Social Science in Public Safety. In August 2013 he was promoted to Deputy Chief. In 2014 he completed a Master of Public Safety Administration at Columbus State University. In April of this year he

achieved Fire Chief Certification through the Georgia Association of Fire Chiefs.

Rice currently holds the rank of Deputy Chief and is the shift commander for Battalion 2. He is very involved with the accreditation process, firefighter health and safety, automative aid agreements, contingency planning and policy review and revision.



LFD Deputy Chief Phillip Rice with his family being honored at the LaGrange City Council meeting

“I would just like to thank Deputy Chief Rice for his 30 years of dedication and hard work for LaGrange Fire Department and the citizens of LaGrange. He has been an outstanding leader within our department and continues to lead and develop others,” said LaGrange Fire Chief John Brant. “He has been an example through his own growth and development by receiving his Master’s Degree and staying highly trained. Phillip is a great husband and father to his family. I know they are proud of all his accomplish as are we here at the fire department.”

Deputy Chief Rice is married to Nicolle and together they have six children.

**Media Contact:** Katie Mercer Van Schoor, City of LaGrange  
Marketing/Communications Manager [kvanschoor@lagrangega.org](mailto:kvanschoor@lagrangega.org) or  
(706) 883-2055

To keep up with the latest news involving the City of LaGrange, go to [www.lagrangega.org](http://www.lagrangega.org) or follow us on Facebook at [facebook.com/lagrangegov](https://facebook.com/lagrangegov), Twitter at [@lagrangegov](https://twitter.com/lagrangegov), & Instagram at [instagram.com/cityoflagrangega](https://instagram.com/cityoflagrangega).

###