

My name is Mallory Falkner and I am part of the Vance County 4-H. I have interviewed a Vance County firefighter/paramedic who will stay unnamed due to confidentiality purposes.

Vance County's budget affects many different departments including Vance County's fire department. After interviewing a Vance County firefighter, I learned that the fire department is continuously having to do greater tasks with fewer funds. With the particular firefighter I interviewed, he feels unappreciated in the sense that firefighters/paramedics are not really thought about until an emergency.

Becoming a junior firefighter at age 15, this firefighter has also achieved his regular firefighting certification along with his emergency medical technician (emt) and paramedic certification. He reports that at 17, he was the youngest certified paramedic in the state of North Carolina. From a very small age this man always knew that he wanted to make a career out of helping people so he decided to be a firefighter/paramedic. His favorite part of his job is learning how to help people who are unable to help themselves. His least favorite part of his job is all the responsibility that comes with being a firefighter/paramedic and when a patient dies in his care.

After being employed by the Vance County Fire Department for about a year now he believes that public service departments are under recognized for their contribution to the county. My proposal to help this problem is to allot some extra money in our budget to go our public service employees and departments. They go out everyday risking their living to help others getting close to minimum wage for doing it.