

It is my pleasure to introduce Robert “Bobby” Carson as April’s Employee Spotlight.

“It was my goal to return to Stuart once I became a firefighter,” says Bobby Carson. A Martin County native, Bobby graduated from Martin County High School (go Tigers!) and attended University of Central Florida where he graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Health Sciences. However, since he was a young boy, he always wanted to be a firefighter and became a volunteer with Highlands County Fire Rescue while attending Firefighter and EMT school. Upon graduating, Highlands County Emergency Medical Services hired him, and he spent the next six years there. During that time, he completed his Paramedic Certificate and continued to hone his firefighter skills. Bobby soon recognized his degree in health sciences was beneficial while in Paramedic school as the medical terminology, anatomy and physiology courses and labs gave him a strong knowledge base while learning his tactical paramedic skills.

Bobby’s goal was to return to his hometown, and the opportunity presented itself in April 2014 when he was hired by Stuart Fire Rescue. He continues to learn and grow in his career, recently completing the City’s driver engineer program, and he’s also enrolled in the City’s Acting Lieutenant program, an extensive training program Firemedics complete before stepping up into the role of a Lieutenant during absences. Additionally, Bobby is a preceptor which is a teacher / trainer / mentor for new medics, a role he enjoys as well. Acting as a preceptor “reminds me of how far I’ve come as a Firemedic,” he states. Bobby loves his job and still remembers the first cardiac patient he assisted in bringing back to life and the very first ride in both the rescue and engine. “No two shifts are the same, which keeps the job exciting and keeps me engaged.”

When Bobby is off shift, you can find him with his family: Melinda, his wife of 10 years, and 7-year-old daughter, Kaelyn. He is a busy and involved Dad, attending her cheerleading competitions and gymnastics classes. Bobby’s own interests include sports – he’s a former rugby player – and working out at the gym. The family are UCF football season ticket holders and hope to enjoy some games once the school opens it back up for spectators. When vacation time rolls around, they enjoy visiting New Orleans for tasty gumbo and awesome oysters. He said it was amazing to tour New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina and look at the levies and try to grasp the magnitude of the flooding that occurred once the hurricane hit.

When asked what he likes best about working for Stuart Fire Rescue, Bobby states, “the small department where it feels like a small family. Everyone knows each other and you aren’t a number like in the bigger departments.”