

# CAROLINE COUNTY PRESS RELEASE



*For immediate release*  
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*Charles M. Culley, Jr.*  
*County Administrator*

## **DEPARTMENT OF FIRE-RESCUE MOBILE TRAINING LAB SELECTED FOR VIRGINIA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES (VACO) ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**

Caroline County has been selected for a 2019 Virginia Association of Counties (VACo) Achievement Award for its Department of Fire-Rescue and Emergency Management Mobile Training Lab (MTL) program. The VACo Achievement Awards were created in 2003 for the purpose of recognizing excellence in local government programs. Winning entries were selected by a three judge panel with a focus on addressing high-priority community issues that challenge counties throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia today.

VACo received 96 submissions in the 2019 cycle and 26 projects were selected for an award.

The Mobile Training Lab was designed and built by the Caroline County Department of Fire – Rescue and Emergency Management to deal with the challenge of delivering quality real-world EMS training. The MTL was created by removing the rear patient compartment from a surplus ambulance and placing it on a trailer. With the support of a generous grant from Rappahannock Electric Cooperative, staff worked in-house to add an innovative audiovisual system to the lab.



Finally, a custom vinyl wrap was designed and applied to the unit that promotes volunteerism within the department. Excluding the \$1,500 grant, the Department was able to complete the project for \$17,685 from funds collected from the sale of surplus vehicles and equipment. The result is a dynamic mobile training lab capable of easily traveling around the County in support of both new and continuing EMS training. Additionally, the trailer serves as an effective advertisement tool for the County's volunteer recruitment program.

“Caroline County is thrilled to have been selected for a VACo Achievement Award” said Board of Supervisors Chairman Clay Forehand. “The award demonstrates the innovative thinking and wise use of taxpayer dollars the County strives to achieve. Congratulations to the Department of Fire & Rescue for this impressive accomplishment.”

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