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Ouachita Parish Fire Department Hosts Traditional Push-In Ceremony for New Fire Truck

Monroe, LA — The Ouachita Parish Fire Department hosted two traditional push-in ceremonies on July 30 to welcome two new fire trucks to its growing fleet. The ceremonies were held at 10:00 AM at Fire Station #3 in District F and 2:00 PM at Fire Station #4 in District B, each honoring a longstanding fire service tradition that dates back to the 1800s. Originally, firefighters would unhitch their horses and manually push their equipment back into the station after a call. Although fire trucks are now motorized, departments across the country continue this ritual as a tribute to their predecessors.

Fire Chief Bobby Moore addressed attendees at both ceremonies, highlighting the importance of the new apparatus and the continued investment in public safety. "This tradition connects today's firefighters with the rich history of the service while also engaging the public in celebrating our progress," said Chief Moore. "Welcoming these new trucks was a proud moment that demonstrates how community support directly enhances public safety."

"The Police Jury is proud to support the Ouachita Parish Fire Department in their continued efforts to serve and protect. Strong partnerships like this are how we deliver real results for our residents and ensure that our public safety infrastructure keeps pace with community growth," said Ouachita Parish Police Jury President Shane Smiley.

The morning ceremony took place in District F, represented by Police Juror Lonnie Hudson, who shared his support for the department. "It was great to see a new fire truck arrive at Station #3, right here in our district. This is a big step forward for our community's safety and a reminder of how important it is to keep investing in public services that directly help our residents. I'm proud to stand with the Ouachita Parish Fire Department as they carry on their traditions and continue working hard for the people of Ouachita Parish," said Hudson.

The afternoon ceremony took place in District B, represented by Police Juror Jimmy Tyson, who expressed enthusiasm for the department's continued growth. "Seeing Station #4 receive a brand-new fire truck was a meaningful investment in the safety and well-being of the families in our area," said Tyson. "This shows the Parish's commitment to making sure every neighborhood has the tools it needs to respond quickly when emergencies strike. I'm proud to be a part of making that happen."

The Ouachita Parish Police Jury supports OPFD through shared resources, unified emergency planning, and oversight of parish-wide services. This partnership ensures both agencies work together to protect and serve the community.

Beyond adding new equipment, the new fire trucks symbolized the department's ongoing commitment to modernization and improved emergency response across Ouachita Parish. Both ceremonies were open to the public, giving the community a chance to experience the traditions that still play a meaningful role in the fire service today.

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About the Ouachita Parish Fire Department: The Ouachita Parish Fire Department (OPFD) proudly serves our community under the direction of the Ouachita Parish Police Jury. The department services more than 100,000 citizens across a 600+ square mile area. With over 15,000 emergency responses annually, the department is committed to protecting lives, property, and the environment through fire suppression, rescue, EMS, prevention, hazardous material mitigation, and education. The department's dedicated personnel uphold the highest standards of service and remain deeply committed to the citizens of Ouachita Parish.

