



Established 1972

By and For the People of Love County

**Richard Barker,
Administrator**

**Ambulance Emergency
911**

**Clinic Appointments
276-2400**

**Hospital Information
276-3347**

**Adult Day Center
276-1542**

**Community Resources
211**

**Domestic Violence Help
276-2042
Hotline - 226-6424**

**Growers Market
276-9410**

EMS/Fire Brigade's Senior Firefighter has 40 Years of Service

Bobby Sharp, Firefighter/EMT

For 40 years, when the fire bell rings, Bobby Sharp answers the call.

The Marietta man has raced with a crew to more fire and accident scenes than any other firefighter in Love County EMS/Fire Brigade.

"I've ridden out on a lot of calls. We've saved a lot of lives," Sharp acknowledged.

He became a fulltime firefighter at Station 2 in 2008 following 30 years as firefighter and fire chief of the all-volunteer Marietta Fire Department. Sharp drives the fire trucks and looks out for the younger members of the crew at the scene.

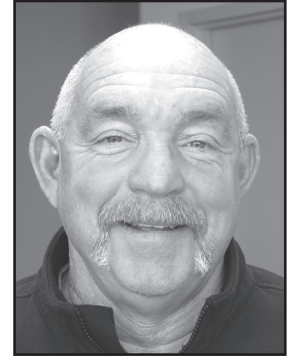
He graduated from OSU Fire Service Training in 1983. His father, Bob Sharp, was chief of the Marietta department when Bobby was growing up. Bobby joined the department as a volunteer at age 21. He still volunteers on his time off from Station 2.

Technology has brought improved firefighting equipment but also presented new hazards. "Back when I started at Marietta, the 'jaws of life' car rescue equipment had been invented. The first to get the tools in our area was a CB (citizens' band) radio club. They loaned them to the fire department. Today electric cars present an electric shock hazard and there are lots more 'hazmat' calls because of hazardous materials spilled on the roadway," Sharp said.

The young man's dream to become a fulltime firefighter came true when the EMS added a fire brigade to handle emergency calls in and around WinStar Casino and hotels. "It was very exciting to start out at the new station with a 40-person crew. Dusty Michael (brigade training officer) and I are the two Marietta guys who go back to the beginning in 2008," Sharp said.

From 1979-2007, Sharp made his living in a lumber business in Marietta, where his father also worked. Bobby's wife, LuAnn, has a lengthy management career with XTO (ExxonMobil Oil). Bobby plans to retire later this year and join her in her present assignment in Houston.

The couple raised two children and has one granddaughter.



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