The American Legion
Department of Indiana

Firefighter – EMS – Law and Order
“Of the Year” Awards

DEFINITION:

The Department of Indiana Internal Affairs Commission, through the Firefighter/EMS/Law & Order (FEL&O) Committee, will annually present a Department level “Of the Year” award in each of the following categories:

- **Firefighter of the Year (FFOTY) – Martin A. Werner Award**
- **EMS of the Year (EMSOTY) – Frank Gilbert, Jr. Award**
- **Law Officer of the Year (FEL&O) – Lewis Schmidt Award**

PURPOSE: The purpose of these awards is to recognize well-rounded nominated individuals in each award category, who have exceeded the duty requirements expected of his or her position held; and who exemplifies the virtues of professionalism and dedication, and has demonstrated a distinct pattern of community service to the community, state and/or Nation. Each award, which considers heroic acts, will be given annually at the Department’s Annual Convention.

NOMINEES: Nominees in each category must be an individual who is an active, full-time, paid or volunteer, who is a U.S. citizen assigned to a municipal, city, or county fire department, police or sheriff department as applicable.

AWARD: Each District level winner in each award category is invited to attend the annual Department Convention. Each is offered complementary lodging for the evening (normally Friday), before the award presentation event (which normally takes place on Saturday of the Convention). Each District level award winner in each category winner is also invited to attend a special recognition luncheon at noon on Saturday of the Convention. Each award winner may have up maximum of two (2) guests of their choice accompany them to the luncheon. The luncheon is complementary to the awardee and their guest(s) as applicable.

In addition, the Department will make a $500.00 donation, in the name of the award recipient, to the charity of their choice for each Department level award recipient in each (firefighter, EMS and Law Officer) category.
Lastly, the Department Firefighter and Law Officer of the Year award recipients will each be submitted to the National American Legion organization as the Department’s nominee for the National Firefighter and/or Law Officer of the Year award.

**RESTRICTIONS:**

1. Each Post may submit (certify) ONLY one (1) nomination in each award category to their applicable District.

2. Each District may submit (certify) ONLY one (1) nominee in each category to the Department.

3. The Department may annually submit (certify) only one (1) nomination to the National organization for the National Firefighter and/or Law Enforcement Officer of the Year.

4. The Department EMS Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) “Of the Year” award selectee may be eligible for the National Firefighter of the year award, ONLY if they are a certified firefighter.

5. The National American Legion will accept a posthumous nomination, but ONLY if the nominee’s death occurred AFTER the nominee was selected as the Departments “Of the Year” award winner in a category.

**SUBMISSION DEADLINES:**

1. Post level submissions in each award category MUST be received by the applicable District FEL&O Chairperson by May 1st of the current Legion program year.

2. District level submissions (certifications) MUST be received by the Department by June 1st of the current Legion program year.

3. Department level submissions (certifications) for National level Firefighter and Law Enforcement Officer awards MUST be received by the National Organization by February 1st of each Legion program year.
SUBMISSION DESTINATION:

1. Post level nominations should be submitted to the applicable District FEL&O Chairperson. Contact information for each District FEL&O Chairperson may be found on the Department of Indiana website at www.indianalegion.org. Select the “PROGRAMS” tab at the top of the page, then click on “Scholarships & Awards” in the drop-down menu. Scroll down the page until you find the [“Of the Year” Awards Committee] button and click on it.

2. District level nominations should be sent to the Department at the following address;

   Department of Indiana
   Attn: Program Director
   5440 Herbert Lord Road
   Indianapolis, IN 46216

POST & DISTRICT LEVEL ADMINISTRATION:

1. Each Post shall select a Firefighter, EMS and Law & Order (FEL&O) Chairperson whose responsibility it will be to provide the District FEL&O Chairperson with suitable and qualified nominees for the Firefighter of the Year (FFOTY), Emergency Medical Services of the Year (EMSOTY) and Law Officer of the Year (FEL&O) awards. NOTE! For the remainder of this document, the “of the year” awards indicated above shall be collectively referred to as the FEL&O awards.

2. The Department shall make an official FEL&O application form available online. This form will be the only method acceptable for a Post to certify the name and accompanying documentation to the District FEL&O Chairperson. FEL&O applications MUST be completed in English. Once determined, the Department level FEL&O winner submissions will become the property of The American Legion and will not be returned to the applicants/contestants. FEL&O non-winner submissions will be returned to the nominee/applicant.

3. Each District Commander shall appoint a FEL&O Committee of not less than three or more than five members, to include the District FEL&O Chairperson, whose responsibility it shall be to judge the District level FEL&O applications; and select one District level winner who shall represent the District in Department level competition.

4. District level certified FEL&O nominees MUST be certified to the Department Headquarters no later than June 1st of each Legion program year.
5. Each District level certified FEL&O winner, and their guest(s) as applicable, will be offered one-nights lodging on Friday evening of the Department Convention period. They will also be invited to attend a special Department Convention Recognition Luncheon on Saturday of the Convention period. The lodging and luncheon shall be at no cost to the award recipient. Each award recipient will be allowed to have up to two (2) guest(s) for the luncheon.

6. During the Department Convention Saturday General Session, each category of District level FEL&O award winners will be recognized from the podium. Immediately following said recognition, the Department level FEL&O category winner will be announced.

7. The Department level FEL&O award winner in each category shall be the lodging guest of the Department. Lodging for the remaining District level winners shall be invoiced to each applicable District.

8. A posthumous award is acceptable only if the nominee’s death occurred within the consideration date period for which the award is being presented.

9. No District or Department level FEL&O winner may be nominated for the same FEL&O award in successive years.

10. Membership in The American Legion shall not be a requirement or consideration in qualifying any nominee for the FEL&O award at any level.

11. Nomination for an FEL&O award in any category, of any member who sits on the District or Department level FEL&O committee shall not jeopardize that member’s position on said committee. However, the nominee/member shall voluntarily recuse them self from participating in the judging at any level, in which they are a considered nominee.

12. Entry forms provided by the Department shall be used as the sole instrument of certifying a nominee and shall not be used as a basis of accumulating points toward determining winners. Final judgment shall be made from the documented materials provided and appearing on the pages in the album.

13. Each Post level winner shall have his/her Award Nomination Form submitted to the District in a form and manner of their own choosing. Each District winner shall have his/her submission prepared as outlined by the rules presented to each District Chairperson. District level certified nomination packets must include the following:
a. A completed application form.

b. A 5” x 7” photograph of the nominee.

c. A maximum of 25 one-sided 8 ½” x 11” pages of bond paper service documentation. The first six or seven pages should include the individual’s service narrative. The additional pages may include supporting citations and other documentation to include press articles.
Firefighter – EMS - Law Officer of the Year
Award Nomination Form

Award for which the nominee named below is to be considered (check ONLY one):
Firefighter: ☐ EMS: ☐ Law Officer: ☐

NOMINEE:

Full Name: ____________________________________________

Street Address: ____________________________________________

City, State & Zip: ____________________________________________

Email Address: ____________________________________________

Phone Number: (______)_________________________ County: ____________________
(Daytime number)

Gender (circle): M F Age: ______

Marital Status (check one): Married - ___ Divorced - ___ Separated - ___ Single - ___

Spouse Name (if applicable): ____________________________________________

Nominees Length of Service as Firefighter, EMS or Law Officer: ______________

Nominees Present Position: ____________________________________________
(i.e. Private, Corporal, Lt., Captain, Chief, etc.)

Name of City, Town and/or County in which you presently serve:
____________________________________________________________________

List previous (Firefighter, EMS or Law Officer) experience as applicable:
____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________

(If more space is needed, attach separate sheet of paper)
If selected as the Department of Indiana Firefighter, EMS or Law Officer of the Year, a $500.00 donation will be made in your name to the charity of your choice. To whom would you choose to have this donation made? Donation may NOT be split between multiple charities.

Name of Charity: ________________________________________________________________

Street Mailing Address: __________________________________________________________

City, State & Zip: ________________________________________________________________

Phone Number: (______) ______________________________

EMPLOYER (Agency, Department, State, County, City, etc.):

Name: ________________________________________________________________________

Director/Commander/Administrator Name: __________________________________________

Director/Commander/Administrator Title: ___________________________________________

Supervisor’s Name: ______________________________________________________________

Supervisor’s Title: __________________________________________________________________

EMPLOYER RECOMMENDATION:

IMPORTANT – NOMINATION PACKET MUST INCLUDE A COPY OF NOMINEE’S STATE OR FEDERAL CREDENTIALS, CERTIFICATION OR LICENSE AS A FIREFIGHTER, EMS OR LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER, AS WELL AS COPIES OF PERTINENT TRAINING AND EDUCATION CERTIFICATES AND/OR DIPLOMAS, AS APPROPRIATE.

Each FEL&O award nominee must be recommended for this award by his/her Director, Commander, Administrator or Supervisor. The Director, Commander, Administrator or Supervisor should also provide a letter of recommendation. The Director, Commander, Administrator or Supervisor should state in the letter of recommendation that should the FEL&O award nominee be selected by the National American Legion organization for a National level award, the nominee will be available for its presentation at the National Convention.
What makes this nominee such an outstanding award candidate?

______________________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________________

(If more space is required, attach separate sheet of paper)

Recommendating Director/ Commander/ Administrator / Supervisor etc., name and signature:

Print: __________________________________________________

Signature: _________________________________________________

POST RECOMMENDATION:

Post Number: ____________ District Number: ____________

Post Street Address: _____________________________________________________________

Post City, State & Zip: ___________________________________________________________

Recommended By (The following Post officials MUST print and sign this nomination packet
where indicated below):

Post Commander:  (signature) _________________________________________________

                     (printed) _________________________________________________

Post Adjutant:  (signature) _________________________________________________

                     (printed) _________________________________________________

Post FEL&O Chair: (signature) _________________________________________________

                     (printed) _________________________________________________
AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF INDIANA

Fireman, EMS, Law Officer (FEL&O) of the Year Award
District Judging Tally Form

POST #: _________  DISTRICT #: _________

FEL&O Candidate’s Name_________________________________________

Award for which the nominee named above is to be considered (check ONLY one):

Firefighter: [ ]  EMS: [ ]  Law Officer: [ ]

A. Community Service
   (0 to 35 points)  _______________

B. Professional Career
   (0 to 40 points)  _______________

C. Heroism
   (0 to 20 points)  _______________

D. Letters of Recognition, news clippings
   and other substantiation documentation
   (0 to 5 points)  _______________

TOTAL POINTS  _______________

Judge’s Initials: _______________  Date: _______________
The American Legion Department of Indiana

Fireman, EMS, Law Officer (FEL&O) of the Year Award

DISTRICT WINNER CERTIFICATION FORM

NOTE! Submit a biographical sketch of the award winner, on a separate piece of paper, and attach it to this Certification Form. The biographical sketch should include, but is not limited to; education, professional and personal accomplishments, awards and/or recognition, family, church affiliation (if any), social organizations, community involvement and other pertinent data suitable for the construction of an introduction or press release.

NOTE! To be completed by the District Commander, Adjutant, and FEL&O Chairperson

We the undersigned, hereby certify that the individual outlined below has been selected the (check ONLY one):

Freighter: ☐ EMS: ☐ Law Officer: ☐

of the Year award winner for the District indicated.

DATE: ___________________________ DISTRICT: ________________________________

NAME: ________________________________________________________________

STREET ADDRESS: _______________________________________________________

CITY, STATE & ZIP: ______________________________________________________

PHONE: (_____) ________________________

EMAIL: ________________________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________

District Commander: (signature)______________________________________________

(printed) __________________________________________________________________

District Adjutant: (signature)______________________________________________

(printed) __________________________________________________________________

District FEL&O Chairperson: (signature)________________________________________

(printed) __________________________________________________________________
The American Legion Department of Indiana

Fireman, EMS, Law Officer (FEL&O) of the Year Award

DEPARTMENT WINNER CERTIFICATION FORM

NOTE: To be completed by the Department FEL&O Committee Chairperson and attested to by at least one (1) other member of the Department FEL&O Committee

We the undersigned, hereby certify that the individual outlined below has been selected the (check ONLY one):

Firefighter: ☐  EMS: ☐  Law Officer: ☐

of the Year award winner for the Department of Indiana.

DATE: _______________________________

AWARD WINNER’S NAME: _______________________________________________________

Department FLE&O Chairperson: _______________________________________________

                                 (signature)

                                 (print)

Attested: _________________________________

                                 (signature)

                                 (print)
The American Legion

Firefighter of the Year (FFOTY) – Martin A. Werner Award

EMS of the Year (EMSOTY) – Frank Gilbert, Jr. Award

Law Officer of the Year (FEL&O) – Lewis Schmidt Award

Section I  Professional Career  (0 to 40 points)

Section II  Community Service  (0 to 35 points)

Section III  Heroism  (0 to 20 points)

Section IV  Letter of Recognition/News Clippings  (0 to 5 points)