

Mike Walsh, Charlestown Fire Company, Maryland

Chairman of Charlestown Fire Company boat committee

October/2025

Jay,

When I contacted MetalCraft Marine in December of 2001, I became part of a family that I didn't know existed. Maritime fire and rescue are what I breathe, I consume every piece of training I can get my hands on. And I (we) wanted the best. In 1990 I joined my local volunteer fire company because they had a boat. A boat they just put in service. A production fiberglass fishing boat made into fire rescue vessel. That was a taste and got me on my quest to build a purpose-built vessel. That fiberglass boat got us through hurricanes, tropical storm, boat fires and weather and none weather related rescues. After many upgrades (engines, electronics, fiberglass), we knew it wasn't enough. After looking at many other manufacturers, MetalCraft Marine let me pick their brains and design a vessel. They waited 15yrs for us to get funding. Then built us a boat that in its first 8 months of service saved over 9 million dollars of property in 2 huge fires. Performing exactly as built. Has it saved lives - yes. But what it has done has built a reputation as a platform that is now requested by 2 states and 5 County's at any moments call 24/7. Our only breakdowns are in 2nd and 3rd parties' equipment, not with the vessel itself. We, Charlestown Fire Company have no regrets in the vessel we purchased, in fact many larger departments in our neighboring states plus those throughout our country have asked and received our design. It is an absolute pleasure to work with all these individuals including former employees that have moved on. We're not just friends, we're family.

Mike,