

Good morning, **I would highly recommend a MetalCraft boat to anyone and everyone.** The fireboat that we have is the original FIRESTORM and it was our guys that had the dream of the vessel that started the process on this particular model.

First, to be straightforward with you, I also have a company that performs some delivery setup and training for MetalCraft Marine. I can honestly tell you that I wouldn't have ventured into an agreement with MCM if I didn't believe in their product. I have watched them build several boats over the past four or five years and they absolutely take care of the customer.

As for our boat, its a FIRESTORM 36, 5 years old, was refurbished last winter and still looks and runs great. Why was it refurbished already? MCM took care of us; since we were the first FIRESTORM built some changes have been incorporated on the latest versions for the better and MCM made those changes for us. We also took advantage and made a few changes that we have seen other make to their vessels. Examples; larger steering system, split fuel tanks for more equipment storage, improved mast, and we added a diesel 6kw generator. **Our vessel definitely meets our standards.**

We have a large association of police and fire vessels on the Potomac River and I think you would be hard pressed to find someone that didn't want our vessel. After seeing ours, Fairfax, Alexandria and DC all purchased one. MCM sends most local (MD, NY, DE, NJ, NC, VA, SC, PA) to our area to see and ride on our vessels when they are considering purchasing one. That invitation is also open to you and your committee.

I think you are absolutely on the right track by checking with current owners. Take the time to come down and see our vessel along with Fairfax (36), Alexandria (30), DC (30) and Annapolis (36) all within an hour or so of each other. You will see the same great construction and a world of differences (electronics and such) that each department incorporated by building off each others vessels and according to budgets.

What would I do differently? Our committee traveled the country looking for a builder to build their dreamboat. Most builders said this is what we build, take it or leave it. MCM listened and designed our dream. We shot from the hip and didn't have anything to really look at and compare. I would take advantage of the fact there are several versions built and in service around the country and visit them. Incorporate the ideas these companies have improved or designed that fit your needs.

Something I would add that I didn't? Maybe a foam system. We didn't put a foam system on board and still have not had the need, but we primarily run incidents involving pleasure craft and not ships. A foam system would be nice when the need arises.

Any major problems with the dealer? No. I do know they seem to run fairly tight on their schedules.

A question you didn't ask was about the jets? If you are considering jets (assuming you are with a 36'), the training can be apprehensive to some. We were very concerned along with some other purchasers. I mention this in case someone has already voiced this concern. **Don't let this be a concern.** We have developed a training program that teaches operators the basics and has

them operating a jet boat with about 8 hours of operating time. **I wouldn't purchase another fireboat with props if the use of jets were available for the location and task at hand.**

We currently run 2 jets; 36' MCM, 27' MCM. We also have a 19' ridged hull with an outboard and it has its uses, especially on smaller bodies of water that I can't get either of our jet boats to.

Feel free to call me at the number listed below if you have further questions or want to arrange a time to visit.

Thanks,

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