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MAYOR

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Delaware



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Tom Wroe, President
MetalCraft Marine, Inc.
349 Wellington Street
Kingston, Ontario K7K 6N7 Canada

Dear Tom,

Well, it's been 18 months since the Wilmington Fire Department received delivery of our Firestorm 70' Multi-Mission Fireboat, so I felt I needed to give you a report on how the vessel performs. I say Multi-Mission because of how your design team and engineers fabricated a fast response vessel that has allowed our Marine Unit to perform not just, but all of the tasks required of them. Our Firestorm 70' is equipped the same as a standard fire apparatus, including hose, SCBAs and forcible entry tools. In addition, we have 300-gallon foam concentrate, medical area for our BLS and medics to accommodate six stretcher patients, and all of our confined space rigging for rescue work. On board, we also have piped in supplied breathing air for crew members and piped in medical oxygen. Along with firefighting and assisting disabled vessels, we respond to industrial accidents on vessels, chemical / oil spills, medical assist and port security issues. With all this equipment onboard, the vessel is still making 41 knots, so our guys can get out to a situation faster and a lot safer than our previous 65-footer.

To give you a short history on how Wilmington decided to use MetalCraft Marine, I was given the responsibility in 1996 to research funding and design a replacement vessel for our 65-foot fireboat we converted from a utility tug. All that work was performed in-house by firefighters mainly because of lack of funds to contract the work out. We started applying for grants in 1998 to replace the 30-year old vessel. In 2007, we were awarded a Port Security Grant, which came with a lot of restrictions and a very short time frame for fulfilling.

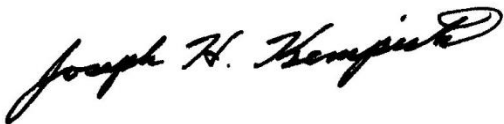
I contacted approximately eight builders that specialize in fireboats to see what our options were. My initial contact with your company through Emily was memorable and truly characterizes the breadth of MetalCraft. I asked to talk to Bob Clark or someone else that may answer some questions about what MetalCraft had to offer. When Emily told me no one was around I assumed she would take my contact information down and have someone call me later. To my surprise, Emily started telling me more about your products and options than anyone in the other companies could answer on my first contact. She knew more about boats, designs and engine options, and I was pleasantly surprised about what a person answering an 800 number knew. Emily coordinated an appointment with Bob Clark, who I thought might just be another salesperson. Bob was just not another salesperson.

I was impressed with his knowledge on design and cost. He could answer questions concerning cost and options on the spot. When he heard what our budget was, he assured us MetalCraft could build to the specifications of our Port Grant.

Before MetalCraft started to build in 2011, our committee met with Ted Splinter, who was going to be the Project Coordinator at the yard, and went over the contract. We were fortunate that during our visit, you were in the process of building a 70-foot vessel for Boston, so we could walk around that project and see what changes we would like to implement. Ted started the groundwork on our vessel, and we felt comfortable with his expertise. Shortly after our boat was under construction, MetalCraft changed their project coordinator, and we were concerned his replacement would not meet our expectations. Well, along comes Jay Milner, and I cannot express in words how fast Jay got up to speed on our project and how attentive he was in keeping us informed on the progress. One of the big stumbling blocks Wilmington brought into this project was coordinating two separate grants in one build. Jay, along with your finance department and our finance Chief Carl Zipfel, worked above and beyond to coordinate the progress payments and keep this project on schedule. Even with all of the mechanical equipment and electronics of a vessel this size, I can say we had very few issues. Aside from a few minor mechanical and electrical issues we were able to repair in-house and a lighting issue Jay and Sean are currently working on, the vessel has exceeded our hopes. The Iveco engines and Hamilton Jets have performed well above our expectations, and all of the fire pumps and mechanical valves have been very dependable. The quality of workmanship and the pride of everyone in the company from the sales staff to the engineers, welders, electricians, project managers and owners shows through the finished project.

I have 48 years of service in the fire rescue marine industry with the last 30 of those years with the Wilmington Marine Unit. I am a licensed Coast Guard Captain who has run several dinner boats and a charter boat. I have been around a lot of boat yards and mechanics, and I am very impressed with your operation at MetalCraft Marine. If at any time you need to show our vessel, please give us a call.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joseph H. Kempista". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial 'J'.

Lt. Joe Kempista