



The desk in the front office of the new headquarters building is made from an old Griffin Fire-Rescue truck. The lights still work.

the final axiom. "We do not have a culture of fear or intimidation," Jones said. "We are not a place that crucifies people for doing little things wrong."

The newly constructed Griffin Fire-Rescue Station No. 2 and headquarters was a dream Jones said he had for years. The \$3.1 million building on Ellis Road was funded by monies from the 2015 Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax.

The new fire station features a separate classroom and storage building as well as a separate administrative building. It also contains a room for firemen's turnout gear, a fitness center with state-of-the-art cardiovascular equipment and an outside recreation area. A new training center is located on Industrial Drive.

"The (city's) Public Works Department has been amazing helping with this," Jones said about the training center. Jones said GFR has received \$1 million in grants.

"I'm proud of that. We



Griffin Fire-Rescue Chief Tommy Jones has the first article he ever wrote framed in his office. He said he wrote the article on the first day he became the city's fire marshal in 1994.

have been able to buy equipment that we know saves lives," Jones said.

The department has also purchased \$3.5 million in trucks, with most of those funds coming from grants and SPLOST monies.

"I am thankful we have been able to enhance our fleet so it is dependable and compliant," Jones said.

Jones is also proud of the city's Class 1 Insurance Services Organization fire rating, which he says is a rare

honor to have. There are 48,000 cities receiving fire ratings in the United States. Less than 600 cities have a 1 rating. A low rating results in lower fire insurance premiums for residents.

Having the belief that community leaders need to invest in the community in which they serve, Jones is active in community service. He is past president of Griffin Daybreak Rotary and the United Way.

Jones and his wife Kristen have three children, Max, Ragan and Grayson.

Outside of work, Jones said he enjoys riding bikes, reading and boats. He and other firemen have recently been introduced to pickleball, and Jones said he enjoys playing.

He loves to write and has published several articles and a book. He also loves speaking to groups and has spoken at over 20 conferences.

"I've been very lucky. Many opportunities have been given to me from the city. I am eternally grateful for every opportunity. It has been amazing," Jones said.



Toppan USA President and CEO Masa Tawewaki visited the Griffin plant earlier this month. He's pictured with Human Resources/Administration Manager Mike Morgan.

Toppan USA doing well, adding shifts

Toppan USA President and CEO Masa Tawewaki said "business is doing very good. In two years, business has almost doubled."

Tawewaki was named president and CEO effective April 1 and had been a vice president since the company was established in 2014 in Griffin and when the plant opened in 2016.

Based in Chicago, he visited the Griffin facility earlier this month and said

Executive Vice President Harry Suzuki will be responsible for everything at the Griffin plant.

The 103,771 square-foot plant is at 603

Rehoboth Road on two lots in the Lakes at Green Valley industrial park.

The plant produces GL film, a transparent

barrier film used in packaging for food, drink, medical care, pharmaceuticals and industrial materials.

The plant is expanding, with Phase 2 of the development under way and a new production machine arriving in May.

It is at full capacity now, he said.

"We will add more shifts to add more capacity," he said.

What this means is hiring of more employees at the plant, which currently employs 80.

"We're going to add more," Tawewaki said. "I'm pushing to hire more."

—Masa Tawewaki, Toppan USA President and CEO

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