



Office of the Fire Chief

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For Immediate Release:

Waco Fire Chief Announces Retirement After 41 Years in the Fire Service

October 10, 2023-Waco TX. It is with a sense of pride, gratitude, and a touch of nostalgia that I announce my retirement as Fire Chief for the Waco Fire Department. After three and one-half years with this organization and forty-one years in the Fire Service, this decision has been reached with a heart full of gratitude for this incredible journey.

Reflecting on my tenure here, I am filled with a profound sense of accomplishment. We have achieved remarkable milestones that have not only elevated the fire department but also contributed to the safety and well-being of the community.

One of the most significant achievements during my tenure has been the efforts to increase diversity within our organization. My goal was to create a department that reflects the rich tapestry of our community, and today, I am proud to say that we went from zero women to welcoming five talented and dedicated women firefighters into our ranks. Additionally, the Waco Independent School District has expanded their Future Heroes Academy to include firefighter I, II, and EMT training. These accomplishments serve as a testament to our commitment to inclusivity and underscores the strength that arises from embracing diverse perspectives.

Financial stewardship has played a crucial role in enhancing our firefighter capabilities. Through strategic planning and resource allocation, we have invested well over \$15 million in new apparatus and vehicles, ensuring our department remains at the forefront of firefighting technology. Additionally, securing over \$12 million in funding for new fire stations has expanded our operational reach, allowing us to serve our community more efficiently and effectively.

Addressing the critical issue of cancer in the fire service has been a priority, and our expanded partnership with On Duty Health for screenings stands as a beacon of hope and prevention. By taking proactive measures, we are safeguarding the health and well-being of our firefighters, ensuring they have the support and resources they need to lead healthy lives.

Providing a second set of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for each firefighter is a testament to our unwavering commitment to their safety. This initiative ensures their well-being and sets a new standard for the industry, showcasing my dedication to the men and women who serve our community.

The organization has grown stronger with the addition of 19 firefighter positions, bolstering our operational capabilities and providing opportunities for new talent to join our ranks. This expansion has infused our department with fresh perspectives and skills, enriching the department's collective expertise.

Technological advancements have revolutionized Waco Fire's operations. Implementing the Digital Asset Tracking System, Document Management System, and the purchase of the IP-Based Fire Station Alerting System have enhanced our data capabilities, providing us with the tools and insights necessary to respond swiftly and effectively to emergencies.

As I prepare to embark on a new chapter in life, I will leave with a sense of fulfillment and immense pride in all that has been accomplished during my tenure. The City Manager Office (CMO) has played an integral role in shaping our department into what it is today, and for that, I'll be forever grateful.

The road to continued success has been paved!