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City of Williston introduces new fire chief

WILLISTON, N.D. – The City of Williston is pleased to announce Matt Clark, former Williston Fire Department (WFD) Division Chief of Operations, as WFD’s newest Fire Chief.

Organized in 1889, WFD has had 15 former Fire Chiefs and six volunteer Deputy Fire Chiefs.

Chief Clark was appointed to the role of Fire Chief by the City of Williston Board of City Commissioners on Tuesday, June 22, and was formally introduced at the City Commission meeting on Tuesday, July 13 in the John Kautzman Commission Room.

"The role you are taking on is more than just providing service to this community, but it's also to your family," stated Police, Fire, and Ambulance Commissioner, Tate Cymbaluk, as he addressed Chief Clark last night. "It's fitting that your family is here to recognize you and be with you for this wonderful honor. I have no doubt in my mind that you are going to do a good job. You came here in 2015. In 2019 you became the number two man. Today you're the number one man."

Chief Clark was joined by his wife and their three children who pinned on his new badge and rank pins.

"This is the day that I've prepared for and worked hard for," explained Chief Clark. "Truly it's an honor to do this for the City of Williston and I am thankful for the love and continued support from my wife and family."

From Helena, Montana, Chief Clark completed the University of Montana's fire and rescue program and began his career as a volunteer firefighter and wildland firefighter for the State of Montana.

In 2011, Chief Clark joined the United States Air Force and served as a military firefighter in Texas, Germany, and California.

Moving to Williston in 2015, he joined WFD and simultaneously transitioned to a training role with the North Dakota Air National Guard.

While at WFD, Chief Clark has also served as the Captain and Shift Commander for C-Shift and as the Division Chief of Training.

A nationally registered paramedic, Chief Clark is a designated Chief Fire Officer (CFO) through the Center for Public Safety Excellence (CPSE). He is one of only 1,546 CFO designees worldwide.

He holds a bachelor's in Fire Science Management and a master's in Public Administration through American Military University, and is actively pursuing a Doctorate of Education in Organizational Leadership through Liberty University. In addition, Chief Clark is completing the Executive Fire Officer Program (EFO) through the National Fire Academy.

He has served in the fire service for 16 years.

For more information on this story, please contact David Tuan, City Administrator, at 701.713.3800 or davidt@ci.williston.nd.us.

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PHOTO: Chief Matt Clark with his wife, Lexie, and their three children (left to right) Charley, Rhyan, and Maximus.

View release online at www.cityofwilliston.com.

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