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City of Waco Announces Fire Chief Finalists

WACO, TX (March 1, 2016) – The City of Waco has narrowed the search for the next Fire Chief to four highly qualified candidates.

According to City Manager Dale Fisseler, “We have received an impressive number of extremely qualified applicants who want to be Waco’s next Fire Chief. The process has been extremely competitive and we believe that the process will result in recruiting a professional, innovative, and visionary Chief who has the experience and passion for the profession to lead the Waco Fire Department.”

The City selected Strategic Government Resources (SGR), to assist in conducting the extensive search that resulted in an outstanding candidate pool. SGR is an executive search firm, based in Keller, Texas, specializing in recruiting, assessing, and developing, innovative, collaborative, and authentic leaders for local governments. SGR’s proprietary recruitment and vetting process produced an incredibly strong field of candidates who want to be Waco’s next Fire Chief. The City received 76 applications from candidates in 23 states, as well as Australia.

The finalists (alphabetically):

Brian Brank is currently the Deputy Chief Finance/Budget/Support for the Killeen Fire Department where he has served for more than 31 years. He holds a MBA from Texas A&M University-Central Texas, a Bachelor of Applied Arts/Science in Business Occupations from Tarleton State University, and an Associate Degree in Fire Protection Technology from Central Texas College. Brank is a Texas Fire Chief’s Academy Certified Fire Executive, and a graduate of the National Fire Academy Executive Development Program. He holds Texas Commission on Fire Protection Master Firefighter, Master Aircraft Crash Fire Rescue, and Master Inspector certifications, Paramedic/EMT-P, Intermediate Peace Officer and a multitude of additional professional Fire related certifications.

Doug Fowler is a career fire service professional with more than 30 years of experience, currently serving as Assistant Chief of Operations for the Austin Fire Department where he began his career as a Firefighter in 1985 and has served as Assistant Fire Chief, Division Chief, Battalion Chief, Captain, Lieutenant, and Fire Specialist. He served as a Firefighter in the United States Air Force and the Air Force Reserve. Fowler holds a MPA from the University of Texas at Arlington, a Bachelor of Arts with emphasis in Fire Administration from Western Illinois University, and an Associate of Applied Science in Fire Protection Technology from Austin Community College. He is a National Fire Academy Executive Fire Officer, Center for Public Safety Excellence Chief Fire Officer Designee, and holds Texas Commission on Fire Protection Master Structural Firefighter, Master Fire Investigator, and Intermediate Fire Instructor certifications.

Paul Simmons currently serves as Deputy Chief and Interim Fire Chief for the City of Waco where he began his professional career with the Waco Fire Department (WFD) in 1996. He has also served as Training Officer for Mart Volunteer Fire Department from 1998 to 2006 while serving with WFD. He holds an Associates of Applied Sciences Degree in Fire Service Administration from Weatherford College and attended the University of Texas. Simmons is a Texas Commission on Fire Protection Master Structure Firefighter, Aircraft Rescue Firefighter, Instructor III, and Driver Operator, and holds National Fire Academy certifications in Haz-Mat Site Operations and Haz-Mat Chemistry. He also holds ECA certification from the Texas State Department of Health Services.

Bobby Tatum has more than 30 years of fire service experience and currently serves as the Deputy Chief/Bureau of Fire Prevention for the City of Fort Worth. Tatum began his career with the Fort Worth Fire Department in 1985 and rose through the ranks to his current position. He holds a Master of Science degree in Leadership with emphasis in Disaster Preparedness and Executive Fire Service Leadership from Grand Canyon University, a Bachelor of Arts and Sciences degree from Midwestern State University, and an Associate of Applied Arts and Sciences degree in Fire Protection Technology from Tarrant County College. Tatum is a graduate of the National Fire Academy Executive Fire Officer Program and holds Texas Commission on Fire Protection Master Firefighter and Master Arson Investigator certifications. He is a FBI Certified Bomb Technician, and holds additional certifications including Aircraft Fire Rescue, EMT-B, Intermediate Fire Instructor, Haz-Mat Technician, Field Examiner, Incident Safety Officer, Fire Officer I, Fire Inspector, and Basic Peace Officer.

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