



Josh Thomas, Citizen Information Coordinator, 503-635-0257

For Immediate Release
November 16, 2004

Contact: Josh Thomas
503-635-0257

RECRUITMENT YIELDS NEW FIRE CHIEF FOR LAKE OSWEGO

LAKE OSWEGO- Portland Fire Chief Ed Wilson has been selected to serve as the new Fire Chief of the Lake Oswego Fire Department. With 27 years of experience with Portland Fire and Rescue, extensive credentials in the field, and an established reputation in the region, recruitment panel members say Wilson shined throughout the process.

“Chief Wilson brings an impressive portfolio of knowledge, experience, and stature to our Fire Department and the municipal organization,” said City Manager Doug Schmitz. “He is a nationally recognized fire official, and we are very pleased that he wants to work with the outstanding employees of our Fire Department, for this organization, and in his hometown.”

Using a recruitment firm specializing in public safety, the City narrowed a field of 57 down to five candidates from Washington, California, Arizona, and Portland. After a daylong process involving formal interviews, presentations, meetings with staff, and City tours, the two Portland candidates, Chief Ed Wilson and Deputy Chief Mike McGuire, rose to the top as finalists.

City Manager Doug Schmitz said he appreciates having such high caliber candidates seeking the Fire Chief position and was grateful that Wilson and McGuire found the municipal organization to be an appealing agency to work for and attractive to their career plans. “These two candidates were excellent choices. It speaks well of our organization to have Portland employees interested in working for Lake Oswego,” said Schmitz.

Since the retirement of Chief Dan Semrad in February, Emergency Manager Larry Goff has served as Interim Fire Chief of the Lake Oswego Fire Department. Wilson will officially assume the role after he is sworn in at the City Council meeting on January 18.

“This is an excellent opportunity to serve the place I call home, and I look forward to becoming engaged with the strong management team, talented personnel, and members of the community,” said Wilson, “From what I’ve seen, the core of this department is sound. We’ll move forward with a team focus, maximizing our existing strengths and assets.”

Chief Ed Wilson is 50 years old, and has been married to his wife, Linda, for 32 years. He has a son, who works for Portland Fire and Rescue, and a daughter who is a preschool teacher in Corvallis. Wilson enjoys spending time with his two grandsons and is an avid outdoorsman.