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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Hobbs Names New Fire Chief

After a nationwide recruitment search, the City of Hobbs is proud to announce Barry Young as the new Fire Chief for Hobbs Fire Department (HFD). Effective August 08, 2021, Deputy Fire Chief Barry Young will be promoted into the role of Fire Chief. Young has been with HFD since 2003 and has served the City of Hobbs for more than 19 years.

A Hobbs native, Young graduated from Hobbs High School and played collegiate baseball at College of the Southwest (now University of the Southwest) where he earned his Bachelor's Degree in Biology. He continued his education at Eastern New Mexico College for Paramedic School and completed his Masters in Leadership with an Emphasis in Disaster Preparedness and Executive Fire Leadership at Grand Canyon University.

Young began his career as a firefighter, then promoted to the positions of Driver, Paramedic, EMS Division Chief, and Deputy Chief. Since 2013, Young has served as the Deputy Fire Chief, completing several large projects to include fire station renovations, countless community campaigns and initiatives, spearheading grant writing efforts for 7 firefighter positions, and creating leadership development initiatives. In 2020, Young was also appointed to Acting Fire Chief while then Chief Manny Gomez served as Acting City Manager. During this time, he led the department during the COVID-19 pandemic, which brought countless changes to safe practices and policies in the fire department.

Young attended numerous leadership seminars and conferences, including Leading Educating and Developing (LEAD) through the Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service at the University of Virginia and the Maddox Leadership Institute through the JW Fanning Institute from Leadership and Development with the University of Georgia. He completed the Executive Chief Officer Leadership program offered by the International Association of Fire Chiefs along with many other certifications in Fire, EMS, and Leadership. Prior to serving as EMS Division Chief, Young served as the President of the Hobbs Professional Firefighters Association, Local 4384, during which he led the membership in contract negotiations and worked hand-in-hand with city administration to ensure high quality in the HFD workplace.

In addition to his public service, Young has served the community as part of multiple nonprofit boards, such as MyPower, Boys and Girls Club, United Way of Lea County, as well as a member of the COVID Vaccination Task Force with Nor-Lea Hospital.

Young met his now wife of 16 years while on a fire service call 19 years ago. They have two (2) teenage children, a 16-year-old son and 15-year-old daughter, and he enjoys coaching and traveling with his daughter's softball team.

City Manager Manny Gomez stated, "HFD has already greatly benefitted from Young's commitment to the fire service in Hobbs. His enthusiasm for improvements to safety and additional resources has made him an excellent candidate for the position. A fire chief's passion for the fire service is infectious, and I believe Chief Young has a reputation as being a leader others want to follow!"

Currently Deputy Chief Barry Young stated, "I am truly honored and humbled to have the opportunity to lead a tremendous group of men and women at the City of Hobbs Fire Department. Born and raised in this great city, I have a tremendous passion for serving the community and ensuring our residents are cared for. I have served the community for 19 years, with the last 8 years as the Deputy Fire Chief. I have a high set of standards and expectations for our department when it comes to serving our community, and I know we have the right personnel for the job. You can expect the Hobbs Fire Department to respond to any call we receive with a high level of professionalism and a positive attitude each and every day. I look forward to further progress in the department and ensuring we operate at a high level and meet all expectations of the community."

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