

## PRESS RELEASE

*Ogden City Announces Retirement of Fire Chief, Mike Mathieu*

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Ogden City announces the retirement of Fire Chief Mike Mathieu, a pioneering and revered public safety leader whose nearly four decades of service have left an indelible mark not only on Ogden but on Utah's fire and emergency medical services system. Chief Mathieu's legacy is one of transformation, innovation, and leadership that has earned him respect and admiration across the state and the nation.

"It has been a privilege and honor to work with so many good people within the City, other fire departments, and the many partners of the fire service in dedication to service and the best interests of the 911 caller," stated Chief Mathieu. "I would challenge our current great members of Ogden Fire to continue growing and ensure their servant's towel is large and utilized. There is no better calling than serving those in time of emergency need! Thank you, Mayor(s) and City Council members, for this wonderful opportunity to serve as Ogden's Fire chief over the last 30 years."

Since joining the Ogden City Fire Department in 1986 as one of its first firefighter paramedics, Chief Mathieu rose steadily through the ranks to become Fire Chief in 1995. Over the last 30 years in that role, he has redefined what fire service leadership looks like, building Ogden Fire into one of Utah's most respected and advanced departments.

Under Chief Mathieu's leadership, Ogden Fire became Weber County's leading provider of advanced life support and interfacility medical transport. He led the creation of the Weber/Morgan County 911 Dispatch Center, centralizing emergency communications and dramatically improving regional coordination. He co-founded the Mobile Crisis Outreach Team (MCOT), embedding mental health professionals in emergency response teams and setting a standard that has been replicated across Utah. His Community Paramedicine and Medical Advocate programs have connected underserved populations to critical care, while reducing the strain on hospitals and EMS resources. He also founded an annual women's health fundraiser to provide free preventative screenings for local women in need.

Chief Mathieu has always led with compassion and vision. His focus on strategic public health, crisis response innovation, and interagency collaboration has positioned Ogden Fire as a model department not only for operational excellence, but for the character and caliber of its people.

His influence has also been instrumental in city governance, where his expertise helped shape public safety planning, emergency preparedness policy, and resource allocation. And perhaps most notably, he has built a department culture that develops and attracts leaders. That culture is recognized throughout the region—evidenced recently as Deputy Chief Shelby Willis accepted the role of Fire Chief in Farmington City, and Fire Marshal Kevin Brown became Deputy Chief in Victor, Idaho.

Mayor Ben Nadolski said: "Chief Mathieu has spoken openly about his plans to retire, so I knew this day would come. But it's still hard to see a leader of his caliber step away. He has given so much to

many – our city, department, and community. We're proud of what he's built, and we'll carry his legacy forward with deep respect and gratitude."

A national search for the best qualified candidate to replace Chief Mathieu is underway, with the process expected to conclude in mid-July. The new chief is anticipated to begin their role in late July.

As Ogden Fire prepares to welcome new leadership, the department remains deeply committed to the values and high standards that Chief Mathieu instilled. His career leaves behind not just accomplishments, but an enduring foundation on which the next era of public safety will be built.

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