

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release: 6/2/2025

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City of De Pere appoints new fire chief

DE PERE, Wis. — The De Pere Police and Fire Commission has selected Battalion Chief Brett Jansen to become De Pere’s new fire chief, effective June 9.

He will replace Chief Al Matzke, who retired in April after nearly 40 years of service in the City of De Pere. Jack Mlnrik, assistant fire chief, has served as interim chief during the transition.

Jansen has a long-tenured history in public safety, and a deep understanding of the De Pere community. Jansen has served De Pere Fire Rescue for nearly two decades, progressing from Firefighter/Paramedic (2006-2019) to Lieutenant Fire Officer (2019-2022), and currently as Battalion Chief (2022-present). He was named Wisconsin State Firefighter of the Year in 2021 and has consistently demonstrated leadership in emergency response, fire prevention, data management, and training, among many other accomplishments and contributions. As Emergence Medical Services (EMS) Director, Jansen has overseen EMS operations and training standards, ensuring excellence in patient care and operational efficiency.

Jansen has also been an integral part of numerous teams and committees on behalf of De Pere Fire Rescue, including serving as Chair of the Northeast Wisconsin EMS Association, Pediatric Emergency Care Coordinator, and Core Officer Representative for the Fox River Fire District. He has also contributed to the Brown County Integrated Threat Team and led the department's data management program.

“Battalion Chief Jansen is an exceptional leader, and we’re excited to see him step into the role of Fire Chief for our community,” said De Pere Mayor James Boyd. “The City of De Pere has long taken pride in the strength of its public safety services and overall quality of life. We’re confident that Chief Jansen will not only uphold these high standards but also lead the department forward with professionalism, innovation, and a forward-thinking approach to fire and emergency response.”

City Manager Kim Flom said, “We are excited to have Brett on board as the next Fire Chief. His commitment to the community and to the continued strength of the organization were evident through the recruitment process.”

For more information on De Pere Fire Rescue, visit www.deperewi.gov/fire.

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