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County names new Fire Marshal

The County Fire Service has named Ken Atamanchuk as the new Fire Marshal. Atamanchuk replaces Mark Whelpton who retires today.

“We feel very privileged to have had Mark on our team the last 18 months of his career,” says Bill Rogan, County Administrator. “The work, experience and kindness he brought to his daily job and the County as a whole will be missed”

“I enjoyed my time working for the County. All my colleagues from all of the different departments here have made me feel so welcome – they’re like a second family to me,” says Mark Whelpton. “Although I’m retiring, it will be quite the adjustment not coming into work doing what I love and interacting with great people.”

Ken has over 20 years of experience in firefighting. He’s been with the County Fire Service as a Captain for over two years. Prior to this, he spent 18 years with the Kananaskis Fire Department as firefighter, lieutenant and captain.

“We are confident Ken will excel in this new role and will build on his skills he developed as a Captain in our service,” says Everett Cooke, County Fire Chief.

Over the last few weeks, Atamanchuk has been working alongside Whelpton to fully prepare to take over as the new Fire Marshal. Ken is a certified Level 2 Fire Inspector and a Certified Level 2 Fire Investigator by the Safety Codes Council of Alberta. He also belongs to many related associations – Alberta Fire Investigation Association, Alberta Building Association, International Association of Arson Investigators. Additionally, Ken is heavily involved in the community, serving as the Director of the Grande Prairie & District Burn Society, and a member of Grande Prairie & Area Safe Communities.

As Fire Marshal, Atamanchuk leads fire investigations, performs fire inspections as to the County Quality Management Plan, connects with the business community on matters relating to fire safety and inquiries, implements fire prevention programs and provides training in these areas to fire personnel

“There’s so many opportunities in the fire prevention and investigation field,” says Atamanchuk. “What I’m looking most forward to in my career transition is getting out in the County more, leading fire inspections and investigations, and playing an integral role in the safe and healthy growth of our communities.”



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