

My name is Robert (Rob) Hanson, I became Fire Chief for Sumter County Fire & EMS Department (FL) in December 2018. My wife, Heather, and I have been together for 31 years and have an adult daughter & adult son. We enjoy fishing, boating, and tending to a small farm in Webster, FL.

I began my fire service career in 1999 as an industrial fire brigade/hazmat responder and volunteer firefighter. Over the past 27 years I have served in various fire service capacities in Sumter County and the surrounding area as a firefighter, paramedic, company officer, and chief officer. I am also fire service instructor, having taught in both fire and EMS fields. I hold a Doctor of Education in Applied Learning from the University of Miami, Master of Public Administration from Anna Maria College and a Bachelor's of Science in Fire Science Administration from Waldorf College. I am also a graduate of the National Fire Academy's Executive Fire Officer Program, the FFCA's Emergency Services Leadership Institute (ESLI), and Certified Public Manager program from Florida State University.

Education and continuous improvement are important aspects of professional development that I consider foundational to our role as fire service leaders and mentors. Education and continuous improvement have led to initiatives and innovations in firefighter safety, endurance, excellence, health, wellness, and industry best practices; all spearheaded by Florida's Fire Service. I hope to continue that innovation and aim to find the next initiative that leads to innovation. The FFCA members and the firefighters among us hold the keys to those new ideas, opinions, and practices. As a regional director my goal is not only to represent the voice of West Central Florida's members, but to seek out the unknown and bring those challenges to light, so we find the solutions together.

Rob Hanson

Fire Chief

Sumter County Fire & EMS