



Assistant Chief Matt Brown began his fire service career in 1998 with Polk County Fire Rescue before joining the Lakeland Fire Department in 1999. Over the past two decades, he has served in a variety of leadership roles including Firefighter, Lieutenant, the department's first Training Captain, Training Chief, and currently Assistant Chief of Fire Administration. Throughout his career, he has remained focused on training, operational readiness, and developing the next generation of fire service leaders.

Chief Brown holds a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration from Florida Southern College and is a graduate of the National Fire Academy's Managing Fire Officer Program as well as Florida State University's Certified Public Manager Program. Earlier in his career, he was actively involved with IAFF Local 4173, serving as Treasurer and gaining valuable experience in organizational leadership and member representation.

Beyond his department, Chief Brown has built strong relationships with fire service leaders throughout Florida through extensive involvement with the Florida Fire Chiefs Association and other statewide initiatives. He currently serves as the FFCA Technical Rescue Team Workgroup Leader, collaborating with chiefs, state officials, and department leaders to strengthen Florida's Technical Rescue Team program. Since 2019, he has helped expand the program by 35 percent, adding 12 new teams and assisting in the development of consistent statewide standards and requirements. He has also contributed to updates to the State Emergency Response Plan.

Chief Brown also serves as an ESLI Instructor and an Instructor for the Division of State Fire Marshal. He previously served as the Region 4 FASAR Representative and has deployed to the State Emergency Operations Center as part of the command structure during multiple hurricane responses.

At the national level, he serves as a principal committee member for NFPA 1006 and NFPA 1020, helping shape national standards for technical rescue and fire officer professional qualifications.

Chief Brown is seeking the opportunity to serve as West Central Director based on his longstanding involvement with the FFCA and his commitment to advancing the mission of the Association. He believes strong communication, collaboration, and active engagement with members are essential to effective regional representation.

If elected, Chief Brown looks forward to continuing the positive work underway in the region while helping address the current and emerging challenges facing Florida's fire service. Through collaboration, transparency, and a focus on practical solutions, he is committed to representing and serving the members of the Florida Fire Chiefs Association.