

## Michael Tucker Bio

I'm Michael Tucker, Fire Chief for Flagler County Fire Rescue, and I am a candidate for the position of 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President for the Florida Fire Chief's Association (FFCA).

Having served the FFCA as a board member, section member (Health and Safety, Executive Leadership Development), and legislative committee member I believe that I am best suited to continue service to the FFCA and its members as the association's 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President. The culmination of my experience serving in these capacities combined with more than 20 years serving as Chief of Department, 30 years as a certified Paramedic, and eight years of executive leadership within the State Fire Marshal's (SFM) Office provide me with a unique understanding of the issues facing the Florida fire service and the role the FFCA plays in addressing them.

The association must have leadership with a demonstrated ability to think strategically, build relationships, work collaboratively, and bring about substantive change through measurable results. With your vote, I will be able to support the FFCA in the four strategic areas of rebuilding our financial health, building strategic partnerships, growing a solid membership structure, and proactive legislative action.

### **Strategic / Platform Issues**

- **Financial health:**
  - Maximum focus on FFCA's financial well-being.
    - If not properly positioned financially, we will never be able to take advantage of future opportunities.
- **Strategic partnerships:**
  - Continue to support our very strong strategic partnerships.
    - Examples include:
      - Florida Fire Marshal and Inspectors Association (FFMIA),
      - Florida Professional Firefighter (FPF),
      - Florida State Fire Marshal's Office (SFM), and
      - Joint Council.
    - Explore growth opportunities with:
      - National Association of State Fire Marshals (NASFM),
      - National Fire Protection Association (NFPA),
      - International Association of Fire Chiefs
- **Membership structure:**
  - Build a membership structure that encourages future leaders to become part of the association because of the value they receive from the membership.

- Develop a marketing program that communicates the return on investment resulting from being a member.
- Communicate the professional development opportunities in which future leaders can participate as the result of membership.
- Must be seen and understood as being for more than just chiefs, as the FFCA must be representative of Florida's entire fire service.
- Membership structure must serve firefighters (volunteer and career), fire instructors, fire inspectors, fire investigators, fire officers, fire chaplains, and fire service vendors.
- **Legislative Acton:**
  - Continue to demonstrate our ability to address legislative issues in a very proactive manner.
  - My time within the State Fire Marshal's office has given me a unique understanding of the pace and rhythm necessary relative to the development and implementation of Florida statute and administrative code.

### **Background, Education, and Experience**

- Chief Fire Officer credential through the Center for Public Safety Excellence (2010).
- Masters Degree in Public Administration - Florida Gulf Coast University (2010).
- Executive Fire Officer Program - National Fire Academy (2005).
- FFCA Fire Chief of the Year in 2011.
- Southeast Association of Fire Chief's Fire Chief of the Year in 2012.
- Florida certified:
  - Firefighter/EMT (1985).
  - Paramedic (1991).
  - Fire Inspector (1997).
  - Fire Service Instructor 1 – 3 (2000).
  - Fire Officer 1 - 4 (1999).

### **Flagler County Fire Rescue (2021 - Present) Fire Chief**

### **State Fire Marshal's Office (2014 - 2021) Bureau Chief / Superintendent**

- Bureau of Fire Standards and Training / Florida State Fire College.
  - Responsible for leading reaccreditation of ProBoard.
  - Responsible for initial IFSAC accreditation.
  - Training and certification of one of the nation's largest fire services.
  - Representing Florida to the North American Fire Training Director's Association.

- Represented Florida as part of Drexel University's Center for Firefighter Injury Research and Safety Trends (FIRST).
- Represented Florida to the Underwriter Laboratories Fire Safety Research Institute (FSRI).
- Completion of the first ever statewide job task analysis (JTA) of Florida's fire service. No other state had ever previously completed a similar undertaking.
- Revision of the FF1 and FF2 curricula resulting from the JTA. Aligned the training of volunteer and career firefighters with the findings.
- Development of the Florida State Fire College Vision 2039 plan used in future planning for the Fire College.
- Oversight of all rulemaking processes impacting the training and certification of Florida firefighters, fire officer, fire inspectors, and fire investigators.
- Development and implementation of Florida's first ever ARFF certification process for ARFF Firefighter, ARFF Driver, and ARFF Officer. This was an unmet need brought to us by the constituents and after learning of their challenges and desires we embarked on a long process of conducting listening sessions across the State to develop the certifications.
- Representing State Fire Marshal's office to the Domestic Security Coordinating Group.
- Served as Florida liaison to Texas for Florida's USAR response to Hurricane Harvey.
- Responsible for developing programs to assist volunteer firefighters:
  - Rewrite of Firefighter 1 curriculum and certification.
  - Responsible for development of Firefighter 1 "Grow as You Go".
  - Volunteer Firefighter Assistance grant program.
- Presented to many City/County commissions as to their roles and responsibilities in providing fire services to their communities.
- Responsible for team implementing the "Green Bucket" decon program.
- Responsible for team implementing the Firefighter Cancer Decontamination Equipment grant program.

#### **Villages Public Safety Department (2001 – 2014) Fire Chief**

- Led department to international accreditation through the Center for Public Safety Excellence.
- Led department from 12 employees operating from one station running 946 calls to 101 employees operating from seven stations running 15,000 calls.
- Developed a nationally recognized community AED program

**Reedy Creek Fire Department (1988 – 2001) Battalion Captain / Training**

**Mount Dora Fire Rescue (1987 – 1988) Firefighter/EMT**

**Leesburg Fire Department (1985 – 1986) Firefighter/EMT**

## **Conclusion**

My fire service career is comprehensive and well-rounded. I have served as a volunteer and career firefighter, paramedic, and fire officer, often doing both concurrently. I love being part of the fire and emergency services family. Serving my community is something I believe I have been put on earth to do.

While serving within a fire department allowed me the privilege to serve my community directly, and take care of Mrs. Smith daily, it has also provided the unique honor and opportunity to serve the Florida fire service.