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## NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### City of La Grande Hires Fire Chief

*La Grande, OR* – The City of La Grande is pleased to announce the hiring of Gus Bryant as the Fire Chief. “We are very excited to have someone with Mr. Bryant’s level of experience and knowledge joining our team,” said La Grande City Manager, Robert Strope.

Chief Bryant brings over 33 years of firefighting and emergency management experience to the City of La Grande Fire Department. Almost 30 years were spent in California with the Kern County Fire Department where he was in charge of several different programs. One of those programs was the departments Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) program. He led a cadre of 12 paramedics that instructed, provided oversight and quality assurance for over 700 EMT’s from city, county, state and federal firefighting agencies. He was a regional instructor for the California State Fire Marshalls Office where he assisted in rewriting the state curriculum Driver/Operator program. He also brings training and experience in wildland/urban interface firefighting where he was assigned to leadership positions.

His educational background and fire service certifications include an Associate Degree in Fire Science, Chief Officer, Hazardous Materials, Rescue, Emergency Medical Services, and Emergency Management.

“I am honored to have been chosen to lead the La Grande City Fire Department and I am looking forward to working with the community, its leaders and the fire department team,” said Chief Bryant.

Chief Bryant and his wife are the parents of 4 sons and the grandparents to 4 granddaughters.

He is scheduled to begin work at the City of La Grande on March 28, 2016.