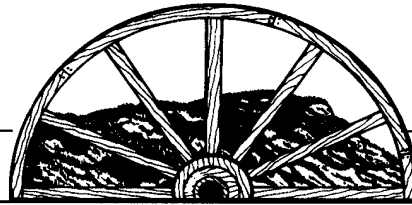

CITY OF



LA GRANDE

THE HUB OF NORTHEASTERN OREGON

OFFICE of the CITY MANAGER

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**CITY of LA GRANDE
MEDIA ANNOUNCEMENT**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
New La Grande Police Chief Selected
City of La Grande
April 2, 2020

Contact: Robert Strobe
City Manager
541-962-1309

The City of La Grande has selected a new Chief of Police to lead the police department upon Chief Brian Harvey's retirement. La Grande Police Department Lieutenant Gary Bell will be appointed as our new Chief of Police effective May 4, 2020.

Lieutenant Bell was offered the appointment after a selection process that included a comprehensive interview with a panel consisting of representatives from the La Grande City Council, Eastern Oregon University, La Grande School District, La Grande Police Department, and the City of La Grande Management Team.

Lieutenant Bell has served our community and the La Grande Police Department for 26 years, since February 1994. He was promoted to the rank of sergeant in 1999 and then to the rank of Lieutenant in 2017. During his tenure he has accumulated a lengthy resume of experience, which includes supervising the Police Department's Investigations Section, supervising the Union Wallowa County Drug Task Force, and serving as the Team Commander of the Northeast Oregon Regional SWAT Team. He holds an Executive Certificate through the Oregon Department of Public Safety Standards and Training and is a recent graduate of the Oregon Association Chiefs of Police Executive Development Institute.

Lieutenant Bell is a long-time La Grande resident and a graduate of La Grande High School. He attended Blue Mountain Community College and Eastern Oregon University and holds a degree in Criminal Justice Administration.

After receiving the offer of appointment, Lieutenant Bell stated, "I'm both excited and honored to continue to serve our community and the Police Department as your next Chief of Police".

###END###