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101 E. Kansas St. • Liberty, Mo. 64068 • T: 816.439.4415 • F: 816.439.4419 • W: www.ci.liberty.mo.us

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CONTACT: Sara Cooke, communications manager, T: 816.439.4415;
E: scooke@ci.liberty.mo.us

Liberty Announces New Fire Chief & Director of Information Technology

LIBERTY, Mo. – At its meeting on November 12, the Liberty City Council unanimously approved two department leader appointments by naming John Mills as Liberty’s new fire chief and Wade Thomas as director of the City’s Information Technology Services (ITS) Department.

“During their time with the City of Liberty, both John and Wade have been integral members of the City of Liberty team, demonstrating strong leadership and professionalism,” said Liberty City Administrator Curt Wenson. “As internal appointments, they not only bring extensive institutional knowledge and a commitment to the organization and citizens but also the trust and respect of their colleagues within the city and their peers in their respective fields.”

Mills, who first began working for the Liberty Fire Department in January 2001, has been serving as interim fire chief since for the past three months. During his career with the City of Liberty, Mills has been promoted on two occasions and most recently served as the Division Chief of Training / Operations. Mills has taken on a variety of duties over the years including maintenance of fire apparatus, replacement of all department apparatus, leading the department through two Public Protection Classification reviews and working with the Liberty Police Department to replace an aging public safety radio system.

Mills holds a bachelor’s degree in public administration and is a member of numerous professional organizations including the International Association of Fire Chiefs, Missouri Association of Fire Chiefs, Western Association of Fire Chiefs, Professional Fire and Fraud Investigators Association.

He was recommended to take the department's leadership role after a nationwide recruitment process that received applications from across the country.

Thomas was recommended for the top position in the ITS Department after taking on the interim director role in August 2019. Since he began working in the ITS Department in May 2011, Thomas has demonstrated great technical and customer service skills, earning three promotions.

Thomas brings 15 years of IT experience in public and financial sectors to his new role as department director. He is involved in professional organizations including the Computer Technology Industry Association; Information Systems Security Association, Multistate Information Sharing & Analysis Center and the SANS (SysAdmin, Audit, Network & Security) GIAC Advisory Board. He holds a number of IT and security certificates including from GIAC, Microsoft, Cisco, Google and VMware.

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