



Founded 1876
Incorporated 1899

TOWN OF JEROME

POST OFFICE BOX 335, JEROME, ARIZONA 86331
(928) 634-7943 FAX (928) 634-0715

STAFF SUMMARY REPORT

FROM: Brett Klein, Town Manager/Clerk

ITEM: **Item: Consideration of a Fire Chief Appointment and Wage Authorization**

MEETING DATE: July 14, 2026

Summary:

Due to the retirement of long-tenured Fire Chief Rusty Blair, there is an opening for a fire chief in the Town of Jerome. Assistant Chief Whiting has extensive fire, EMS and incident scene management experience and knowledge of the day-to-day operations and administration of the Jerome Fire Department. Assistant Chief Whiting has the support of the entirety of the current fire staff, Town administrative staff and Council, and appointing him to the position of Fire Chief will ensure for the most seamless transition possible.

Fiscal Impact:

None. The wage package recommended below will save the Town a minimal amount over his long-tenured predecessor.

Recommendation

Staff recommend a starting wage of \$76,315 effective July 15th, along with a \$50.00 per month phone stipend. Staff also recommend a 5% increase after successful completion of a 6-month introductory period. All other wage and benefits will be the same as any other Town employee with his years of service.