



CITY OF KINGSBURG

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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March 7, 2024 - Kingsburg, CA – We are pleased to announce the appointment of John Binaski as Interim Fire Chief of the Kingsburg Fire Department. Interim Chief Binaski will begin his duties on Monday, March 18, 2024.

Mr. Binaski enjoyed a 33-year career in the fire service, beginning in 1990 with Orange County Fire. He has served with several departments in California, including, notably, Kingsburg, from 1994-2002. His most recent service includes the City of Clovis, CA, where he retired in 2023 after serving 7 years as Fire Chief. He is a credentialed Chief Fire Officer with the Center for Public Safety Excellence (CPSE), and carries several certificates from California State Fire Training, including Master Instructor, Fire Chief, Fire Investigator and Marshall. He earned his Master's Degree of Science: Emergency Services Administration from Long Beach State, Bachelor's Degree of Science: Fire Administration and Fire Prevention from Cogswell Polytechnical College, and Associates Degree of Science: Fire Science Technologies from Saddleback Community College.

Chief Binaski's fire service career includes significant experience and management in fire prevention, operations, human resources, finance, and fleet. He has presented at several state and national conferences and served on numerous boards for multiple state associations. He has experience in both combination and career departments and has demonstrated a record of professionalism with a commitment to excellence. He has served on several local and State agencies, including as Executive Board member and Past President of the League of California Cities Fire Chief Department, President of the Central California Fire Chiefs, Legislative Director and Past Northern Director (CalChiefs), and Chair of the California State Education and Training Committee. In 2021, he was named California Fire Chief of the Year by the California Fire Chiefs Association.

Binaski assumes command from former Chief, Daniel Perkins, who accepted the same role in Hanford, CA. "I wish Chief Perkins the best in his new endeavor and thank him for his leadership and passion while leading Kingsburg Fire," said Kingsburg City Manager Alex Henderson. "He has helped advance our fire department and laid the foundation for continued success."

Interim Chief Binaski will be ceremoniously sworn-in during the April 3, 2024, regular Council meeting. The public is encouraged to attend.

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Kingsburg Fire Department

1460 Marion Street, P.O. Box 2, Kingsburg, CA 93631-1908
(559) 897-6531 Fax: (559) 897-0366

April 1, 2024

Kingsburg HealthCare District
1425 Marion St.
Kingsburg, CA 93631

Board of Directors,

On behalf of the men and women who service the citizens of the City of Kingsburg and its surrounding areas, I personally want to thank you for your generosity and understanding of the important needs your grants provide to the Kingsburg Fire Department. As the new Interim Fire Chief, I have reviewed the grants you have provided, and I am very impressed with your continued support and contributions. I would like to introduce myself to the Board and answer any questions you may have concerning your past contributions or our current grant application.

As outlined in our grant agreement I would like to provide you with the April 1, 2024, update on the grants you provided. The department has purchased, received, and trained on the four Zoll X Series advanced 12-lead monitor defibrillator. This device is the same you would see in a hospital emergency room, operating room or a cardiologist. It has software to read and interpret the heart rhythm, monitor a patients O2, blood pressure, and defibrillate multiple different arrhythmias. Having these capabilities makes it possible for our paramedics to immediately identify if a patient is having a heart attack and then transport them to an appropriate receiving hospital for a possible STEMI procedure to remove the clot. The department has completed all requirements in the grant and has received reimbursement of \$159,291.57. Again, thank you.

The second part of this grant was for the purchase, switch-over, and training on new software used for field patient care reports (PCR) and billing. The department went out to bid and received the lowest cost for Image Trend Software. This software lets information from our regional dispatch be preloaded into the PCR, which reduces duplication of effort. The department has provided training to all members and they are currently completing test runs between our new and old systems before we completely switch over. This new software will reduce the amount of time that our ambulances are committed at the hospitals, because reports can be electronically signed and information sent over. Fire department personnel have made all of the rules for the implementation of patient care reports. We have received reimbursement of \$18,603.00.

My last update is on the final year of our three-year grant for the funding of three paramedics of the six required to staff an ambulance. This grant is invaluable to not only the department, but the community. This grant has allowed the department to staff a second ambulance, which reduces response times and keeps the department in compliance with Central California Emergency Medical Services Agency (CCESMA) response time standards. The hope was that the second ambulance would generate enough revenue to fully fund the staffing of two ambulances without the need for grant funds. Unfortunately, what we have found is the revenue generated from patient runs is not quite enough to cover the full staffing, equipment, and replacement ambulance costs necessary for the operation of the 2nd ambulance. Without this grant, the Kingsburg Fire Department would only be able to staff one ambulance. With more patients wanting to be transported to either Fresno or Visalia receiving hospitals, this has resulted in our ambulance being outside the city for longer periods. If I go back 20 plus years when I was a paramedic here in Kingsburg, a majority of patients wanted to be transported to either Kingsburg or Selma Hospitals. This enabled us to respond from either hospital as we offloaded our patients. Now this is not possible, and these calls are resulting in our ambulances being out of service for almost two hours, which has a direct impact on our ability to serve in the community. This is why having two ambulances staffed, especially during our peak hours, is so critical. If Kingsburg does not have an ambulance available, the next ambulance is responding from Selma, Dinuba or Reedley. All of these have response time greater than our 10-minute goal and the CCEMSA standard. The city does fund for an Engineer/Paramedic so we can provide lifesaving treatment while we are waiting for a response form an ambulance outside Kingsburg. No system or city can provide 100% service and handle all emergency types by themselves, and this is why we all participate in mutual aid. Our goal is to try to respond to as many of the calls within our jurisdiction as possible, and the Healthcare District grant helps us achieve that. The department is in the process of completing quarter 3 for costs through April 15, 2024.

Again, thank you so much for your continued support. These grants are so important to the community and the department, especially with the staffing of our ambulance.

Sincerely,



John Binaski
Fire Chief