

William Gillespie chosen as fire chief

December 24, 2019



The City of Crescent City announced that William “Bill” Gillespie will serve as the new fire chief for the Crescent City Fire and Rescue on Facebook on Monday, Dec. 23.

Gillespie will step into the role well prepared as he has served as the interim fire chief since April, 2018. Before that, he worked with the Humboldt Bay Fire Department for over 20 years—moving up the ranks from a firefighter, three years as a captain, over seven years as assistant fire chief and almost two years as the fire chief.

However, his time in fire service stretches beyond that. In total, he has worked in fire service, both in career and volunteer work, for 32 years. He also holds a bachelor’s degree in occupational studies with an emphasis on emergency services from California State University Long Beach and has completed the National Fire Academy’s executive fire officer program.

To qualify for the position, Gillespie had to undergo interviews with representatives from Crescent Fire Protection District, Crescent City Police Department, the fire chief from the Office of Correctional Safety,

Del Norte County Sheriff's Office, Fortuna Fire, County of Del Norte Office of Emergency Services and the Del Norte Unified School District.

He was also required to meet representatives from the Crescent City City Council and the Crescent Fire Protection District.

Gillespie's contract will go before the Crescent City Fire Protection District on Jan. 13, 2020, and before the City Council on Jan. 21, 2020. The community is invited to see the official swearing in of Chief Gillespie at the Jan. 21 meeting at the Flynn Building on 981 H Street at 6 p.m., according to the city's press release on Facebook.

"You have been fantastic to work with serving as an interim Chief and we have no doubt you will only keep up the outstanding service! Thank you for choosing our community," said the Del Norte Sheriff's Office on Facebook after the announcement.