



City of Battle Creek Fire Chief candidate biographies



Bill Beaty

- **Current role:** Deputy Chief for the all-volunteer Divernon, Ill. Fire Protection District
- **Previous experience:**
 - 2019-2021, Garden City, Kansas, Fire Chief; and Finney County, Kansas, Fire Services Coordinator (Chief)
 - 1996-2019, Springfield, Ill., Driver-Engineer and Captain
 - 1987-1997, Divernon, Ill., Captain and Training Officer
- **More info:**
 - Divernon Firefighter of the Year, Veterans of Foreign Wars Springfield Firefighter of the Year
 - IAFF Local 37 Executive Board
 - Fire Science Technology program coordinator, Emergency Medical Services program coordinator, adjunct instructor - Lincoln Land Community College
 - Air Force Security Forces 1989-2008, multiple deployments, numerous decorations/awards
 - Scholastic high/middle school sports official since 1987



Jeff VanderWiere

- **Current role:** Deputy Fire Chief with the Portage, Mich. Department of Public Safety - Fire Division
- **Previous experience:**
 - 1996-2020, Kalamazoo Department of Public Safety, Assistant Chief
- **More info:**
 - Master's in Public Administration; Bachelor's in Sociology
 - Vice Chair, Kalamazoo County HazMat Team
 - Vice Chair, Michigan 5th District Technical Rescue Team
 - Kalamazoo County Fire Chief's Association representative, Kalamazoo County Consolidated Dispatch Finance Committee
 - Wife, Julie; children Megan, Bryce, and Jaden