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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

SOUTH JORDAN CITY TO SWEAR IN NEW FIRE CHIEF *Growth to be the biggest challenge for the new chief.*

SOUTH JORDAN, UT – January 14, 2019-- The City of South Jordan is officially welcoming Christopher Dawson as its new Fire Chief at its City Council meeting Tuesday, when he will take an oath of office.

Dawson was hired by South Jordan City in March 2018 as a Deputy Fire Chief, and worked for Sandy City as a Battalion Chief for 9 years before that.

South Jordan Mayor Dawn Ramsey says Dawson has a lot of work ahead of him as the city is projected to grow significantly over the next ten years.

“With more than 80,000 residents, and a growth projection of 5,000 more each year for the next decade, there is no doubt South Jordan is where people want to be,” Mayor Ramsey said.

Dawson agrees this growth will provide challenges for his department.

“It is likely that the department will roughly double in size within the next ten years, which will require more firefighters, more stations, more equipment, and more administrative staff to support department operations and the increased needs of the community,” Dawson said.

Passing along this big task is retiring Chief Andrew Butler, who has worked with the South Jordan Fire Department full-time for 20 years, which included four years as fire chief.

“He has already proven himself as analytical, intelligent and collaborative team member. I have every confidence that Chief Dawson will do an outstanding job as fire chief,” Butler said.

Butler agrees that growth will be Dawson’s biggest challenge in this new position and that he worked to set the department up for success going forward.

“During my time as chief we have built a third fire station, increased our personnel, increased our budget, made several operational changes and tried to streamline and make better use of our resources and programs,” Butler said.

Dawson says working with Butler, relying on his extensive experience through the transition, has been helpful.

“It has been a pleasure having the opportunity to work with Chief Butler, if only for a relatively short amount of time. His experience and professionalism have aided me greatly in making this transition to fill the role of Fire Chief.”

Dawson will take his oath of office with 12 other city department heads at the South Jordan City Council Meeting on **Tuesday, January 15, 2019 at 6:30 p.m.**

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South Jordan is proud to be named WalletHub’s 2nd Best City for Access to Resources and the 22nd Best Place Overall in America for 2018. We are honored to be chosen by USA Today, for the third year in a row, as one of the Top 50 Best Cities in America to Live In, with the highest ranking of any city in the state, and to have South Jordan’s Daybreak Community named the Best Place in America to Retire, by Where to Retire Magazine.