

Cory Schmidt – EFO Section, Director for Missouri Valley

Grand Island Fire Department (Nebraska) – Fire Chief

No known or potential conflicts of interest

My name is Cory Schmidt and I'm extremely honored to be a candidate for the Missouri Valley Director of the EFO Section of the IAFC. For the past 12 years, I have served as the fire chief of the Grand Island Fire Department (GIFD). The GIFD is a 76-member, all-career department that provides fire-based ALS ambulance transport. As the chief of a mid-sized department, I'm very familiar with the many challenges faced by the fire service today as well as those issues looming on the horizon. Although I have nearly 32 years of career fire service experience, I still approach each day with a passion for the job and the mindset that I have a lot to learn. If elected, I will represent this Division by engaging our members, soliciting feedback, and building collaboration as we collectively work to accomplish the goals of the EFO Section of the IAFC.

I hold an MBA, BS in management, and an Associate degree in fire protection technology. In 2017, I completed the NFA's Executive Fire Officer Program. During my time in the EFOP, I was awarded NFA's "Outstanding Research Award." I also maintain the coveted Chief Fire Officer designation from the Center for Public Safety Excellence. Last February, I completed the prestigious Naval Postgraduate School - Center for Homeland Defense and Security's Executive Leaders Program (ELP). I believe these accomplishments demonstrate my commitment to professional development and epitomize the core values embraced by the EFO Section of the IAFC.

My platform is to be an advocate for the creation of additional learning options for executive fire officers and to improve the safety and professionalism of fire service as a whole, through education and other professional development opportunities. I embrace the principles and philosophies the EFO Section represents and if elected, will work tirelessly on your behalf to further the agenda of this important section. I'm humbled by this opportunity and excited for the possibility to help make a difference by serving as an EFO Section Director.