

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Fire Chief Ray Canafax Welcomed as Weaverville's New Fire Chief

Weaverville, NC – March 17, 2026 – The Town of Weaverville is pleased to announce the appointment of Ray Canafax as the new Fire Chief. Chief Canafax will bring more than 32 years of fire service experience and over 20 years of fire-related training to Weaverville.

Scottie Harris, Weaverville's Town Manager, has stated: "With an advertisement that went nationwide we were very fortunate to end up with several highly qualified candidates from Western North Carolina and other states for the position of fire chief. The interview process consisted of multiple rounds using internal and external assessors evaluating the candidates and I am pleased to say Chief Ray Canafax rose to the top. Chief Canafax will bring not only leadership and operational experience, but a strong background in grants and professional development of others. He will be an instrumental part of the team as our fire department and Town grows."

Chief Canafax previously served at the City of Huntington Fire Department in West Virginia where he worked his way up from firefighter/engineer to Deputy Fire Chief, the position that he retired from in 2024. Currently he is working with Grayson Volunteer Fire Department, a position that he took in 2025. He also served as adjunct instructor at the West Virginia University Fire Service Extension for 19 years and continues to deliver important fire training across several states. In addition to proven leadership skills, Canafax brings experience working with grants and budgets, purchasing fire apparatus, expanding a department into multiple fire stations, and engaging with the public. In addition to an Associate's Degree in Occupational Development earned at Mountwest Community and Technical College in Huntington, West Virginia, Canafax holds many fire and rescue training certificates.

Chief Canafax: "I am honored to be named the next Fire Chief for the Town of Weaverville. I look forward to working alongside the dedicated members of the department and the Town's leadership team to build upon the strong foundation already in place while continuing to provide the highest level of emergency services to our community."

Weaverville's Police Chief, Somer Oberlin, participated on the selection panel and has stated: "I'm excited to welcome Fire Chief Canafax to the team. This is an exciting moment for our community, and we look forward to building a strong partnership. As our town continues to grow, the collaboration between our police and fire departments becomes even more important. Together, we will continue to enhance public safety, support one another in the field, and provide the highest level of service to the residents we are proud to serve."

The Town of Weaverville looks forward to welcoming Chief Canafax to his new role beginning on April 20.



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