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Branson Fire Chief Announces Retirement After 30 Years of Service

(BRANSON, MO, November 20, 2025) After three decades of dedicated service to the City of Branson, Fire Chief Ted Martin has announced his intention to retire in April 2026.

Chief Martin began his career with Branson Fire Rescue in 1996, quickly becoming known for his leadership, compassion, and commitment to the safety of the community. He was promoted to Fire Chief in 2012, where he has since guided the department through an era of significant growth, modernization, and community trust.

Under Chief Martin's leadership, Branson Fire Rescue has maintained one of the region's lowest fire loss records and highest property value saves. His tenure saw the addition of Fire Station #4, completed on time and on budget, as well as increased staffing, upgraded fire apparatus, and expanded training and safety programs.

"Serving the residents, visitors, and business of Branson has been one of the greatest honors of my life," said Chief Martin. "Our department's success is a reflection of the unwavering support from the Board of Aldermen, City Administration, and the Branson community. Together, we've built a department that responds with skill, compassion, and pride."

Mayor Larry Milton shared his gratitude for Chief Martin's service, "On behalf of the Board and the entire City, we thank Ted for his decades of service. We are excited to see the next chapter of his continued commitment and involvement in our City.

"Chief Martin has played an important role in leading Branson Fire Rescue with professionalism and dedication," said City Administrator, Cathy Stepp. "His steady leadership and focus on teamwork have made a lasting impact on both the department and the community. We wish him and Kathy all the best as they enter this next chapter."

Chief Martin and his wife, Kathy, who will also retire in 2026, plan to remain in the Branson community. Together, they look forward to continuing to serve the wonderful community of Branson. "Branson is home," said Chief Martin. "Kathy and I are excited for the next chapter and the chance to keep giving back to the community that has given so much to us."

The City of Branson will celebrate Chief Martin's service with a special recognition event in early 2026. Details will be announced at a later date.