



CITY OF BLAIR

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City of Blair Announces Finalists for Police Chief Position

Blair, NE – The City of Blair is pleased to announce the three finalists for the position of Police Chief. Each finalist brings extensive experience and leadership in law enforcement, and their biographies are included on page 2 of this release.

The search for a new Police Chief began following Chief Joe Lager’s announcement of his retirement after more than 40 years of dedicated service to the City of Blair. His last day of service will be Friday, April 11, 2025.

We extend our sincere gratitude to all candidates who participated in this process. The selection of finalists followed a thorough and comprehensive evaluation led by the City of Blair Civil Service Commission and City Staff in collaboration with Morrow & Associates, a human resources firm specializing in public safety hiring.

With the finalists now named, the selection process enters its final phase. Each candidate will visit Blair between Wednesday, March 26, and Monday, March 31, for on-site interviews and city tours. The anticipated final decision and Mayoral selection is planned to be presented to the City Council for their confirmation on Tuesday, April 8. This will occur at their regularly scheduled City Council meeting at 7:00 PM in the Council Chambers at City Hall (218 S 16th St.).

We look forward to this next chapter for our Police Department and are confident in a strong future ahead.



Finalist Biographies (In Alphabetical Order by Last Name)

Jeremy Kinsey

Captain Jeremy Kinsey is a 31-year veteran of the La Vista Police Department, where he currently serves as the Operations Commander, overseeing the Uniform Patrol Bureau. Throughout his tenure, he has also led the Operations Support Bureau (Administration) and the Community Services Bureau. Captain Kinsey holds a Bachelor of Science in Business Information Systems from Bellevue University and is a graduate of the FBI National Academy (Session #274). Additionally, he has completed multiple nationally accredited law enforcement management and leadership programs. A proud U.S. Air Force veteran, Captain Kinsey is married and has four sons and two grandchildren.

Jon Kramer

Jon Kramer is a 27-year law enforcement professional with 24 years of service at the Douglas County Sheriff's Office. As a Lieutenant, he currently oversees a portion of the dayshift road patrol, the School Resource Officer unit, and the Drone Team. Jon holds a Master's Degree in Criminal Justice from the University of Nebraska.

Dr. Steve Rathman

Dr. Steve Rathman began his law enforcement career in 1992 with the Hall County Sheriff's Department in Grand Island, NE. In 1996, he joined the Grand Island Police Department, where he rose to the rank of Sergeant and Training Coordinator. Since 2010, he has served as the Chief of Police in Plattsmouth, NE. Dr. Rathman holds a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice from the University of Nebraska, a Master of Arts in Management from Doane University, and a Doctorate in Strategic Leadership from Liberty University. He is also a graduate of the FBI National Academy (216th Session, Quantico, VA). In addition to his law enforcement career, Dr. Rathman is an adjunct professor at Doane University and Peru State College and is a certified professional law enforcement instructor in Nebraska.

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