**Osman named director of city’s Office of Emergency Management**

With the promotion of Major Todd Christian to Assistant Chief of the Dickson Police Department, Michael Osman has been named the new director of the city’s Office of Emergency Management.

Osman has served as Fire Prevention Officer for the Dickson Fire Department since 2021.

City Administrator David Travis announced the appointment at the Aug. 18, 2025, Finance and Management Committee meeting.

Created by the Dickson City Council in January 2023, the Office of Emergency Management formulates and implements the city’s responses to both natural and man-made emergency situations that require resources from multiple agencies.

According to the resolution creating the OEM, the director “shall have the authority to request the declaration of the existence of an emergency by the City Mayor.”

The director is responsible for the “preparation of all local emergency management plans and procedures and recruitment and training of local emergency response personnel from local government departments, private, volunteer and civic groups.”

The local response plan must be developed within the guidelines of the state plan and be approved by the Tennessee Emergency Management Agency.

Administrator Travis said when Major Christian, the city’s first OEM director, became Assistant Chief in March, he said he could continue in his director role.

But with the decision for the Dickson Police Department to take over the Emergency Communications Department following the retirement of Director Rosalind Sowell on Aug. 12, Major Christian said he will need to focus his efforts in a different direction.

“Once we decided to ask them to adopt dispatch and take them in under their wings, he said, ‘It might be pushing my limits a little and I want to give everything I can.’ So, in saying that, we asked Mike Osman, who is our current Fire Prevention, our Fire Marshal, he helps in all those aspects, we asked him to step up and take over the OEM and he graciously agreed to do that,” Travis said.

Born and raised in Miami, Osman moved to Middle Tennessee to attend Lipscomb University where he graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Government and Public Administration.

Following graduation, he returned to Florida to open a franchise with his younger brother. After two and a half years, he returned to Middle Tennessee to open another franchise with two lifelong friends.

“Like most of us small business owners, we struggled during the 2008 recession and I had to close both businesses,” Osman said. “So, I decided to find a ‘recession-proof’ job.”

Osman joined the Ashland City Fire Department as a volunteer firefighter saying he didn’t fully grasp what a volunteer firefighter did because he had not experienced anything like it in Miami.

“Nevertheless, I found my calling,” Osman said. “I was asked to become a part-time firefighter to fill in shift when one of their career firefighters was deployed to Afghanistan. I fulfilled those roles and later joined as a career firefighter.”

During his more than 13 years with ACFD, in addition to firefighting Osman worked in recruitment and retention and grant writing.

Since 2021, Osman has served as the Fire Prevention Officer at the Dickson Fire Department with responsibilities including public education, fire safety programs, fire inspections, plan reviews and Community Risk Reduction. As a member of the Special Operations Rescue Team, he holds several technical certifications and was a part of the response teams during the 2021 Waverly flood.

In 2019 Osman earned a Master’s Degree in Safety, Security and Emergency Management with a concentration in Fire and Emergency Services from Eastern Kentucky University. Certifications include Emergency Medical Responder instructor, CPR instructor, Child Passenger Safety Technician Proxy and International Code Council Fire Inspector 2. He is vice president of the Tennessee Public Fire Educators Association and a committee member with National Fire Protection Association 1660, which establishes the standards for Emergency, Continuity and Crisis Management Preparedness, Response and Recovery.

Osman and his wife, Ashley, have two children, Austin and Reese, who participate in several sports and dance activities, and the family loves traveling. Osman coaches his son’s Trap and Sporting Clay team.

“I am grateful for the opportunity to continue to carry the torch passed along by Assistant Chief Christian in this capacity,” Osman said. “The city has a great leadership team and working with them in trying times will be beneficial to all city residents. We hope to grow our awareness and city’s response within the Office of Emergency Management.”

According to the resolution establishing the OEM, the director also organizes and facilitates an Emergency Services Coordinator Group, a Local Emergency Planning Committee, a Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee and Emergency Management Executive Board that will assist in the development and implementation of the Emergency Operations Plan. These boards and committees can consist of elected officials, city department heads and representatives of volunteer and civic organizations, businesses and industries.

Osman is stationed at Dickson Fire Department Station #1 at 101 Church St. and can be reached at 615-446-6331 or mosman@cityofdickson.com.