



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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**For Immediate Release**

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### **Deputy Fire Chief Achieves “Chief Fire Officer” Designation One of 1,279 Worldwide**

**Burlington, NC** – Deputy Fire Chief Matt Lawrence has successfully gained renewal of the professional designation “Chief Fire Officer” (CFO). The Commission on Professional Credentialing (CPC) met on May 8, 2018 to confer the designation. Lawrence is currently one of only 1,279 CFOs worldwide.

The CFO program is a voluntary program designed to recognize individuals who demonstrate excellence in seven measurable components including experience, education, professional development, professional contributions, association membership, community involvement and technical competence. In addition, all applicants are required to identify a future professional development plan.

The CFO designation program uses a comprehensive peer review model to evaluate candidates seeking credential. The Commission on Professional Credentialing (CPC) awards the designation only after an individual successfully meets all the organization’s stringent criteria. Deputy Chief Lawrence achieved this credential first in 2012, again 2015, and has now gained it for an additional three year renewal.

“Deputy Fire Chief Lawrence has been a great addition to the Burlington Fire Department since joining us in early 2018. Achieving this designation for a third time signifies Deputy Chief Lawrence’s commitment to continuous improvement, which carry over into the department” stated Fire Chief Jay Smith.

The professional designation is valid for three years. Maintaining the designation requires recipients to show continued growth in the areas of professional development, professional contributions, active association membership and community involvement as well as adherence to a strict code of professional conduct.

The Commission on Professional Credentialing, an entity of the Center for Public Safety Excellence, Inc., (CPSE) administers the Designation Program. The CPC consist of individuals from academia,

federal and local government, and the fire and emergency medical services profession. To learn more about CPC, visit [www.cpse.org](http://www.cpse.org).

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“The City of Burlington is dedicated to providing high quality municipal services within our diverse community in a friendly, professional and efficient manner in order to promote the safety, health, and quality of life of residents and employees.”

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