



For more information, contact:

Melissa Sturges for the city of Belton, 816.235.7733 or melissa@sturgesword.com

December 11, 2020 – BELTON, Mo. – Belton City Manager Alexa Barton recently announced the promotion of Lt. John Baker to deputy director, emergency management for the city.

Baker has served in the Belton Police Department since 1998. Early in his career he served as a master police officer with responsibilities as crash reconstructionist, liaison for HazMat, RADAR/LIDAR (light detection and ranging) instructor, field training officer and as secondary shift supervisor. As corporal and later in his most recent position as lieutenant, Baker added training through Homeland Security and responsibilities relating to anti-terrorism and emergency response to CBERN(chemical, radiological, nuclear and explosive devices or agents used to cause mass disruption or casualties) incidents.

“John brings more than 20 years’ experience in the public safety sector,” said Barton. “The city of Belton has a responsibility to its citizens to have readiness preparedness for a wide variety of possible emergency events including the current work underway to address the COVID-19 pandemic. John, who knows our city so well, and is well experienced and trained in emergency response, is ideal for this position.”

In this role, Baker will report to Chief James Person and has duties which include disaster relief and emergency search and rescue as well as hazardous materials (HAZMAT) and anti-terrorism liaison roles. The city’s department of emergency management is charged with educating Belton residents on actions to take in the event of a community emergency; managing the efficient flow of volunteer, state and federal recovery aid; identifying potential hazards; keeping a plan of action current to serve in the event of a community emergency that exceeds the city’s capacity to respond alone; providing warning and coordinating services with peer agencies in the event of dangerous weather.

“It is a privilege to step into this role and I am grateful for the opportunity to grow my responsibilities in serving the people of Belton through emergency preparedness,” said Baker. “I get to work alongside professionals who also are passionate about our public’s safety. The commitment and dedication of all those chomping at the bit to help our community is inspiring.”

###