

In August 1993, Robert P. Benoit was appointed Fire Chief. Chief Benoit oversees a \$21.5 million budget with 263 employees and 13 fire stations.

Born and raised in Lafayette, Chief Benoit joined the department in 1979. During his career, he worked in almost every division within the department. Beginning in operations, he ascended from firefighter to fire captain within seven years. He worked an additional seven years in Fire Prevention as an investigator before being promoted to Fire Chief. While doing so, he obtained an Associate Degree in Fire Science from Louisiana State University at Eunice and a Bachelor of Science degree from University of Southwest Louisiana, currently ULL.

Chief Benoit is an active member of numerous professional and civic organizations. He is a member of the Southern Regional Fire Code Development Committee, International Association of Fire Chiefs, Louisiana Fire Chief's Association, and serves as Louisiana Vice-President, SouthWestern Division of International Association of Fire Chiefs. He is a board member of Boys and Girls Club of Acadiana.

Providing professional and quality service to the community while aiding the best interest of the employees has always been the focus of Chief Benoit. In his tenure, Chief Benoit has built a state-of-the-art training facility designed to both train and certify firefighters in high tech emergency operations. In addition, Chief Benoit has implemented the First Responder program within the department which utilizes Automated External Defibrillators (devices used to assist patients who may be experiencing a heart attack). With firefighters responding to EMS calls, this program has greatly enhanced the quality of life for the citizens of Lafayette.