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Lars White tries out job as Oviedo Fire Chief

Lars White grew up in Oviedo dreaming of being a firefighter. These days, he may be ready to lead the department.

After the recent retirement of Chief Wayne Martin earlier this month, White was appointed to serve as acting chief until someone is selected for the top position. He's considering putting in an application for the job.

He joined the all volunteer department about a quarter of a century ago and became one of the first paid employees of the department in 1983.

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Since then he has served as a firefighter, a captain, a lieutenant, a battalion chief, the department's public information officer, a training coordinator, the public education director and in whatever capacity the department needed him to perform.

"I feel that I'm well-prepared for the challenge of acting fire chief," he said.

White said he's waiting to see if he will apply for the chief's position.

"We have a new city manager and a new attitude in Oviedo and I'm just looking to see what happens before I put in my application."

And he certainly wants to stay in Oviedo, he said.

"My roots are kind of here," he explained. "I went to

Lawton Elementary, Jackson Heights Middle and I graduated from Oviedo High School."

He also earned his AA degree and his Associates of Fire Science from Seminole Community College as well as his Executive Fire Officer Training from the National Fire School in Maryland.

He said he has had "plenty of good mentors" over the years while he has been a firefighter and has learned a great deal that would serve him well should he decide to apply for the chief's job.

"I'm just taking my time to make a decision," he said.

In the meantime, White said, he is enjoying the challenges of running the department as the acting chief.