

*Some Like it Hot: Tales from the Firehouse*  
*Interview with Shawn Grant*

**SUMMARY KEYWORDS**

firefighter, work, chief, kids, job, firehouse, station, day, jeff, challenges, fire, policeman, learned, department, fire department, dad, years, issues, online, today

**Jen Weidner** 00:01 Today is July 6 2023. I'm Jen Weidner with the Jeffersonville Township Public Library, conducting interviews for Some Like It Hot: Tales from the Firehouse. I'm here today with Fire Chief Shawn Grant of the Jeffersonville Fire Department. Thank you so much for being here. So how long have you been with the department?

**Shawn Grant** 00:18 August it will be 27 years.

**Jen Weidner** 00:20 And you've been chief for how long?

**Shawn Grant** 00:22 Going on three years.

**Jen Weidner** 00:23 You started like, right the beginning of the pandemic,

**Shawn Grant** 00:26 The first day of the pandemic.

**Jen Weidner** 00:29 Oh, nice. Nice. So what made you want to become a firefighter?

**Shawn Grant** 00:36 Well, that's a that's a long story. But I guess you got time. I grew up on Indiana Avenue that is about two three blocks away from our station. And as a kid, I used to go and hang out. Always had, I guess, an urge or a want to become a fireman or to do something public safety because my dad was a policeman and I ended up hanging out there, like I said a lot. When I became about , I was about 27-28. I applied and I got hired after five tries. And here I am 27 years later. But the passion to be a first responder was my dad, watching him the respect in the community that he got from being a first responder. I even got respect because I was known for many years as Marvin's boy. It was just I think it's a calling for some people. So I answered it, and here I am today.

**Jen Weidner** 01:52 So if you weren't a firefighter, what do you think you'd be doing?

**Shawn Grant** 01:57 I had to ended up, I used to work at the hospital before I got I worked at the hospital directly after high school. And I was looking at becoming a nurse and bought a sports car while I was there, and I couldn't afford the insurance and drive it. So my dad had retired and he took over security at Jeff Boat I took vocational welding in high school, and I didn't want to be a welder. And I ended up going to Jeff Boat to work, worked there for seven years but only three years I worked as a I guess as a laborer. I worked the last four as a supervisor. So and I wanted to try something different. Because all the policemen at the time

used to come in there and get their ID photos made at the guard shack. My dad had an ID machine there so all the city police before they got their own ID machine to come in there. Think I'm gonna try that and then my dad said no, you want to be a fireman. So I tried five times and I finally got hired in 1996.

**Jen Weidner 03:09** So police officer kids become firefighters, firefighters kids become police officers that's...

**Shawn Grant 03:15** Absolutely, my dad didn't want me to be a policeman. And I'm not sure if Kenny's (referring to Kenny Kavanagagh, Jeffersonville Police chief as of 2023) dad wanted him to be a policeman because he's all cop.

**Jen Weidner 03:24** Yeah, yeah. Absolutely.

**Shawn Grant 03:29** But I always tell people, I wouldn't have the chief of police here any other way. He's really good and good at what he does.

**Jen Weidner 03:35** Yes, absolutely I agree.

**Shawn Grant 03:36**

Our city is really safe. I think under his leadership, and I believe so myself and him work good together. And I think we've got a good team going on here and a lot of good things to happen here.

**Jen Weidner 03:41** So what are some challenges of your job?

**Shawn Grant 03:56** Where my job differs from being an online firefighter is granted. I miss those days. Because there's nothing worse when you're online. If you're trying to mitigate a problem. Maybe a rescue. You have some issues with your tools or some of those things. But my job is different. It differs now because I deal with the budgets and the running through the hoops. I've got to sell what I need for our department. And I have to sell that to nine different people. Okay, and I've got to have a pretty good argument when I go when I ask for things. So just for instance, the last thing I just asked for \$3.4 million so I gotta be pretty good on my game, to explain that to nine different people. How and why I need this. So that's some of the challenges of being the chief. I don't like to as when I took over as Chief I always give I don't like to do discipline. I don't like that. That's the hardest part about this job and I prefer not to. I prefer to let the captain's run the crews and if it can't, they can't handle it. Then it comes to me that some of the challenges with that because my I guess closest to the guys that I work with, I want to be their friend too as well as their boss that's one of the hard things to separate yourself from.

**Jen Weidner 05:34** Do you have many disciplinary issues?

**Shawn Grant 05:36** No I don't. But when I have some it's just kind of it's kind of hard to take. Not really. I don't have many at all, but you get them periodically, but that's some of the challenges of the job and dealing with selling the things that we need. And we know that we need them but you don't get them and you're going you're screaming you're going I need this we

need to have this gotta have this. And then sometimes people get on board with you and then sometimes they don't. Sometimes you don't get everything you want. So you just have to learn to accept that. And I do accept the fact that sometimes I'm not gonna get everything I want.

**Jen Weidner 06:13** As long as you're getting some of what you want to keep the department going.

**Shawn Grant 06:16** That's my motto and I don't stop asking.

**Jen Weidner 06:21** That's true, that is true.

**Shawn Grant 06:23** Here he comes again. So that's my, my MO with the fiscal body here the city here he comes again.

**Jen Weidner 06:32** You know what your team needs so yeah.

**Shawn Grant 06:35** I want. Like I said, my model is giving my guys all of what they need to be successful in their jobs, and some of what they want.

**Jen Weidner 06:45** So I know you're not online anymore, but when you were, how long did it take to get used to working those 24 hour shifts?

**Shawn Grant 06:57** When you first start as a firefighter online, you get out training and then they put you on your crew. You kind of have anxiety waiting for the alarm. How long did it take you to get used to it? Let me give you my first rundown of my first couple of days. Okay, my first day I get there, didn't have uniforms yet, but one of the guys gave me some pants to wear Mike McCutcheon which Mike is one of my deputy chiefs now and I had t-shirts and then I get there that morning and I'm going okay, And everybody's outside. They're checking the truck in the morning. The major Major Jim Carter God rest his soul, was a great guy.

**Jen Weidner 07:45** Yeah, my dad knew him. Yep.

**Shawn Grant 07:50** He,he would go to the store and get breakfast and come back cook breakfast and we would clean up a little bit and then the captain would have chores or a training regimen for us that day. We were going to help since I was a new firefighter. We go down to the end of Indiana Avenue and we were gonna spray water and get me acclimated to the pressure of the hose and everything so we do that. And then everybody started watching their watch and they're like, hey, it's almost man you gotta go gotta get back.

**Jen Weidner 08:25** What's go going on.

**Shawn Grant 08:29** So we roll up hose, we get back to the station, Mike McCutcheon goes in starts some tea on the stove Bobby Jones goes in and gets his favorite chair. And we sat down and watch Days of Our Lives.

**Jen Weidner 08:48** That is not what I expected to hear from a firefighter today!

**Shawn Grant** 08:53 That was our regimen every day.

**Jen Weidner** 08:56 So did you learn to like that soap opera?

**Shawn Grant** 08:59 I did!

**Jen Weidner** 09:03 That might be the funniest thing I've heard so far.

**Shawn Grant** 09:05 So that's what we did. And it was it was kind of go and I was used. Keep in mind I was used to working six days, five, six days a week and then I'd work three to four hours over at Jeff Boat during the week. And so I was used to it. I only had like two weeks vacation and I was constantly get it, get it, get it, down there and there was no breaks you know because everything was billed in time and hours. So it was a it was an it was a unique adjustment. And it takes to get adjusted to that it takes you a few months. And because you're up and down sometimes the middle of the night it's an adjustment so you gotta learn to kind of pace yourself and rest when there's opportunity there because you don't know if you're going to be out for the next 10-12 hours and work on a pretty good sized structure fire something other so it's a it's a balance of sit around and kind of relax a little bit and wait till the next incident happens. So it takes about a couple months to get acclimated into the schedule.

**Jen Weidner** 10:25 So when you first start and you're trying to sleep at the firehouse or you just constant kind of like laying there waiting for the alarm like you don't allow yourself to relax like you normally would because that anticipation?

**Shawn Grant** 10:36 You're you're so your, your wound up thinking it's gonna go off and back in the day we've changed the buzzer at station one but that buzzer went off they would like to scare the hell out of you. Especially if you wasn't used to especially in the bedroom. So you get you get kind of get amped up a little bit late, anticipating the alarm to go off because you can't wait to put the fire gear on, you got can't wait to get out and get on that back of that truck and go and make a difference because everybody loves the fire department. Everybody loves so rarely that you'll ever see somebody says oh, I wish you guys didn't come in my 27 years I've only had that happen once. That's because the guy was shooting fireworks and he was under the influence of alcohol and he shot it up into the eaves of his house and caught it on fire.

**Jen Weidner** 11:35 Well I mean you know.

**Shawn Grant** 11:38 So in my 27 years that's the only time I've had an incident that people weren't welcoming to us. But it takes a couple of months acclimate it to the schedule

**Jen Weidner** 11:51 So what are some of the best parts of your job? You can talk about like your job as Chief or your job when you were online.

**Shawn Grant** 11:57 The best part of my job when I was online i'll give you two parts of this I got to work with some unique guys. We had a home. We always laughed and we pranked each other and we just were like big kids again. And it was just fun to be there. I learned so I was a I guess I was a 20 something year old young man. And when I was at Jeff Boat as a supervisor I

made really good money and so I didn't do anything for myself, I paid someone to do it. Paid someone to cut my grass, paid somebody to change my oil. But working and growing together with the guys that I worked with on my crew. They taught me how to be a young man. So I changed my oil my car I cut my own grass. I did things that I didn't think I was capable of doing. And I learned that through that and how what I contribute that to is like a little family. So that's where that I learned to do a lot of things that I didn't do as a young man, I learned it at the fire department.

**Jen Weidner 13:14** That's cool.

**Shawn Grant 13:15** So it made a better person.

**Jen Weidner 13:18** Those older gentleman took you under their wing and he's like we're gonna show you this is stuff you can do.

**Shawn Grant 13:23** And we did things and when it comes to change and brakes and doing things like that, I may never do stuff like that, but pull your car here. I'm gonna show you how to do and we did so. We always did things, especially the weekend, weekends are more laid back at the firehouse myself, Bobby Jones and Mike McCutchen we were on the ladder truck that week or that month and we rotated back and forth. We always had projects, we'd always do something just to keep busy when the alarm went off, get off, dropped whatever we were doing, or get on the truck and go take care of business but that's one of the things as an online firefighter, I remember and I remember some of the other crews that I got to work with Ricky Cooper and Anthony Thomas. We just laughed and had a ball because Ricky it was kind of cantankerous and every day at work, it was something we laughed at him and we had a ball and but he was cantankerous, but he was probably one of the smartest and the most talented people, musician that I've ever met. And we just had a great time that day and getting away from being at home with my wife and kids going there. I kind of the challenges that I've had as the chief is just selling the department to people. So what we do and how we make people know the the importance of our firefighters and what we do here in the community. That's one of the challenges of the job is because sometimes you get that. See you're kind of just relaxing at the station. When they pop in every once in a while. Some of the guys are kind of sit back watching TV in the recliners and that's kind of what we get noted for.

**Jen Weidner 15:27** Oh yeah, that's what I hear all the time, they don't do anything. They just sit in their their recliners all day and I want to look at them and be like, have you ever one time spoken to a firefighter in your life and ask them what their job is like?

**Shawn Grant 15:38** What do you do? I commend my guys because from the time 27 years ago till today, they not only it's not so much it's more fires, they see this a lot of the destruction of this world. And it it weighs heavy on these young guys.

**Jen Weidner 16:01** Oh absolutely what I always ask is like, how is your mental how's your mental health? Do you have the resources you need to take care of that?

**Shawn Grant 16:09** And that's one of the things was to as chief I'm in the process of working on that as we speak. So I've got a chaplain, that's there, but I'm gonna take it another step further to make sure there's someone there that they feel the need to talk to another person and somebody there available for so that's on my list of things to do as chief so, as chief, I'm constantly trying to evolve and make the department move forward. It's always a work in progress. Just when you think you're caught up and I was telling my staff I got really caught up here we're gonna kind of kind of take it easy a little bit, and then I'll sit at home and I'll go, I start jotting things down in my notes on my phone because I don't think I'm ready to take down because I keep everything in here.

**Jen Weidner 16:58** Same same!

**Shawn Grant 17:00** This is a tool or keep them on my iPad. Yeah, keep everything in there. And so when I'm sitting at home in my sunroom, and I'm jotting things down that I want to see done, then I go in our next meeting, I lay it on it. So and it's worked. It's worked over the last three years. We've got a lot accomplished in the last three years to move the department forward, so unfortunately, one of the things is I've had as a chief and I think if you can, if it's been bad, it's been put on my shoulders since pandemic was the first week of my

**Jen Weidner 17:41** What a challenging thing to deal with.

**Shawn Grant 17:43** And I when I got that call, I took off that weekend before the pandemic and then I get I go to work Monday and they say, Hey such and such says that the country shut down, blah, blah, what we're gonna do

**Jen Weidner 18:01** You're like let me breathe. Think about this for a second.

**Shawn Grant 18:06** To come up with a plan. And we implemented it, and it worked for us. And I couldn't do that, without surrounding myself with good qualified people. So I don't have all the answers. But as the chief having good qualified people. It helps so we went off without a hitch.

**Jen Weidner 18:31** Yeah, cuz you all didn't have any firefighter die from COVID Right? Had some that got sick?

**Shawn Grant 18:37** Yes. And those are some of the challenges because guys get sick. And one of the things we did we just halted all of our EMS runs. I said no more EMS. I had to think about the lives of the family members of these guys that worked as firefighters. Their job is to be firefighters and I had to think about you go in these people's houses and you don't know if you're gonna take that home to your parents or your mom, your aunt or your uncle or your

**Jen Weidner 19:08** Children or whoever right You better knock on some wood and nothing else happens. And you guys have had quite a few firefighters retire recently.

**Shawn Grant 19:10** And so it was trying times, but we got through so we didn't change anything we did. I think we did a phenomenal job and we kept the city of Jeff safe. We made fire runs and then we eventually started making EMS runs and before we didn't have the equipment

to do so, but we got the equipment to do it. Masks, gloves, the Decon we did the whole nine yards. We come up with a incident action plan and we implemented it and that's what we did and mitigated the biggest part of our problems that we had here one of the other downsides, moving past COVID was since I've been chief was dealing with our first in line of duty death with Deputy Chief DeArk think if it's bad that can happen it's happened to me since I've been chief. We've got five right now in the pipeline to become new firefighters right now. So yeah, and we grow by leaps and bounds and I'm in the process of trying to get an additional four and run another truck out of the Eastern station. So that's what I'm working on.

**Jen Weidner 20:19** Yeah I mean, Jeff has grown exponentially since we were young. I can't even fathom like when I was a kid like how big Jeff would become.

**Shawn Grant 20:36** So give you a general idea of where we're at. We're facing when I started we made two to 300 rounds a year. And that's with three stations. Today, we're up to like 3500 a year and growing.

**Jen Weidner 20:54** And that's with your five stations?

**Shawn Grant 21:03** Yes, and growing, we are we're growing tremendously.

**Jen Weidner 21:10** So are we trying to get a another station?

**Shawn Grant 21:13** I'm gonna try to get two stations. So that some of the things I'm trying to sell to the council and I want another station at River Ridge and then I want to move one of our companies out of our station one down here and move them a little further to the towards the river and up towards the East End.

**Jen Weidner 21:33** Make sense, that's where all the growth is, so.

**Shawn Grant 21:35** So, and it'll only help serve this community way better when I spread out the resources, so that's what I've got planned for the next future. I've got four more years so we'll see what happens.

**Jen Weidner 21:50** So I know there's no like typical day for a firefighter but what is like either now as chief or before what's your typical start of your day like?

**Shawn Grant 22:00** Oh, when I get there in the morning, I go in and I walk down the hallway and I greet everybody who's sitting in their office. I usually go back to my office and then I'll check emails and see because I get emails from civilians and they're like, hey, from I get them from all over people from all over the country from people wanting to see if they can have one of our patches, to people want from economic or not economic, but they want studies but biohazard hazardous studies for different properties in the city so I'm juggling emails and shipping them into the right direction for people that can handle this problem. So that's what I usually do. And then probably one of our hardest things that we have to do in today's time is figure out we're going to eat lunch.

**Jen Weidner** 22:58 The most important thing of the day.

**Shawn Grant** 22:59 We argue about where we are going eat at and then go eat lunch, come back and come back and wrap up your day and just hopefully, there's nothing going on. And then we'll talk about projects and things that we've got working and there's always something to do. We're trying to change our overtime system and get a new system for that. So there's quarks, there's bugs and stuff that we got to work out that. So everybody and I've got my training coordinator. He's got some things that he's done since then, Jason, my deputy chief, he's got things that he does with the SOPs (standard operating procedure) to personnel issues, to different things of that nature. So he's dealing with that. And then I got Mike over here who's dealing with everything else that doesn't eat sleep, or breathe at the fire department so he stays real busy and then I am the brain I guess that everybody comes to they asked, "Hey what about this what about that" ..we're constantly getting called certain different ways. I wouldn't have it any other way. I love it. So we've got a great team. And they've worked hard and I'm very very proud to be the chief of the fire department.

**Jen Weidner** 24:23 Is there one call that stands out to you more than others?

**Shawn Grant** 24:28 You know, I always tell people when it comes to talking about that, yes, there's a lot of calls like that. And I've been in the office probably for two of my 27 years there. And if you was to say that my daughter does this to me all the time, she would say what is my birthday. I grabbed my phone I have to look it up she does it to me all the time. I'll tell her after about 10 minutes after I find it. But some of those calls and that you you make while you're a firefighter that stuff's branded in your head. So We deal with kids, you can't get that out of your head, especially if you have kids. That death is the one thing that kind of makes you when you put that fire coat on you put those boots on you put those pants on the helmet, you feel like you're immortal. And that's the one thing that bring you back to reality is to know that someday that's going to be you and to see little kids get hurt, they lose their lives at such a young age and ask yourself why is that? That's not fair. And those are the things that stick with you. And it's not if you're gonna see it as a firefighter, it's when it's gonna happen. Somebody's got to see and and being able to manage that stress and anxiety from that runs. It's kind of it's, it's a it's a lifetime of work, because we've all got it if you've been a firefighter for any amount of time.

**Jen Weidner** 26:23 That's why I always ask, you know, how's your mental health? Is there resources available because you got to see people on their worst days.

**Shawn Grant** 26:32 And like I said, it's been probably 13 years since I've been on a truck and it just the drug craze, just kind of started right before I went in the office. And I hate this drug epidemic that we've got going on in this country. It shows no it doesn't discriminate. It's in the nice neighborhoods. It's in the lower income neighborhoods. It doesn't care where it's at. And just see that I was just blown away. Because you're in your mindset, this is gonna be this area, this one. It's all over everywhere, and it has a tendency that way. So to see it, I can imagine what our guys are going through now. It's like anything else. Some things in this world we kind of get used to. That's sad that we do.



**Jen Weidner** 27:27 But when you see it day in and day out.

**Shawn Grant** 27:29 You get kinda used to it. And that's a sad existence right now for this country that we have learned to accept the drug overdoses. Hey man you got some Narcan. I got some here.

**Jen Weidner** 27:43 We have it here. We have staff that is trained to do it. We also know that you guys are literally in walking distance from us too.

**Shawn Grant** 27:52 That's one of the one of the challenges of this job is to see that. See how the world's changed and I am a I think I'm a compassionate person, but I don't understand that. That I see it every day as a community leader. How come our community leaders in Washington can't see it.

**Jen Weidner** 28:11 I mean you guys are you guys your guys are living it day in and day out going to these calls and seeing it.

**Shawn Grant** 28:18 And it's playing a big effect on on the police department too is that they can't get help anymore because people don't want to be policemen. And that's one of the challenges of that job. And there's many but there's a challenge of that job is that people don't want to do this job anymore because they deal with that so much.

**Jen Weidner** 28:35 Do you find that with firefighters too?

**Shawn Grant** 28:38 No I have no issue hiring people, people love us. (laughing) I always tell people we are the police's heroes, so that's why we hang out with them. No, but seriously, no, we're not having any issues at all. And I pray for the police department. They are having some issues.

**Jen Weidner** 29:01 Yeah

**Shawn Grant** 29:03 My dad was Jeff City police. I wish them all the luck in the world. I I think they got good leadership over there. And he's in the process of trying to fix some of those things that they have that are kind of steer in other places, different places. So I hope he gets it all worked out.

**Jen Weidner** 29:22 What are some misconceptions about firefighting, there are so many fire shows that I know they get it all wrong.

**Shawn Grant** 29:30 It's not how it is at the firehouse you watch Chicago fire you watch those things. It's the more laid back because when our guys got young, guys, they got families all running around like I said, everybody kind of come there being at training. You are you cleaning Are you doing something kind of just chillin not up with some scandal or some problems that have been around and doing that, no, it's kinda lay back relax, like for the next call. And you don't see the flames whenever you go into a burning building. Guys don't have your mask on.

It's all smoke, smoky you can't see nothing. And until you find the fire so it's nothing like it does it's, it's portrayed on TV. It's nothing like that at all. And it's hot.

**Jen Weidner 30:24** Oh, yeah, yeah, absolutely. Because they show you they're just walking in and everything can see everything and all Yeah, they see right where the fire is coming from.

**Shawn Grant 30:34** One of the things that you hope that when you're a firefighter is that you're searching a building and do you know find somebody because that's, that's something that you're, you're not invincible. We're all human. And when you do that, and you find somebody and you rescue them and they don't make it. It makes you feel like you didn't accomplish what you should have. And you second guess yourself and you go maybe if I was here just a few seconds faster to save. So those are some of the things that stick in your mind. Those are some of the misconceptions is we're not perfect, but we try to be.

**Jen Weidner 31:22** So I'm sure you don't have a side job now that you are the chief, but have you had a side job in the past?

**Shawn Grant 31:30** I've had a side job. I cut grass for 20 years, and I just quit last August. So what I would do is I'd leave work about 3:30 4 o'clock and then I'd go cut five or six seven yards, I cut 15. So I could one one day and then I cut some more the next. Last year I had a hernia. And so I was like oh I'm gonna fix after I after grass season and it was August and I had some friends that were going down to the Parlor to hang out. And it's my crew guys that I hang out with. And I was at one of the houses where I cut to the yards that are next to each other and they were really hot. I cut them looked at the yard and it looked good and I went to grab that gate that I grabbed my stomach because my hernia started flaring and I was like put the gate up put the clip the pins in the gate and I looked at the yards and I just stared there my arm on the end of my trailer for a minute and I go "why are you doing this?" What do you need? Do I need another pair of shoes need more? I don't need,50 . I'll be 53 this year. I have no needs. My kids are fine. I use the extra money to do stuff for my kids. My kids are in private school. My son's graduated and my daughter's there. She's good. So I said I call one of my other firefighters and that's like, Hey, do you want these yards I got he's like yeah, I'll take them next year. I was like no, now I'm done. So I quit cutting grass last August and I never looked back. So that's one of the things I do and I've got to do a lot of little side jobs. I worked. I worked for Cash America, which was a pawn shop. That was probably one of the coolest things I got to do. My buddy was a manager and he was like when I first got to the fire department. He's like, Hey, what are you doing? You gotta you gotta you work on the side. I was like no, like, he goes why don't you come up here and work for me for Christmas. They needed Christmas help, so I stayed for three, four years. It was a cool job. So we've all tried our hands at different things.

**Jen Weidner 33:57** Different things right

**Shawn Grant 33:58** And how I started cutting grass was Grege Hammond had started a lawn business and I started cutting grass with him. And I also cleaned windows too and did that for a while. Yeah, we all had side jobs. I don't think the younger guys of this generation not too many work on the side. So don't think they do.

**Jen Weidner** 34:21 How has being a firefighter affected your home life?

**Shawn Grant** 34:26 Well, I'm divorced. So. Not saying the job contributed, right, but it's fine. I'm a single father. So I raised my two kids for the last eight years on my own. So it's been fun. I've got a girlfriend and we've been together for almost eight years. It works.

**Jen Weidner** 34:48 Something everybody is used to.

**Shawn Grant** 34:51 Yeah.

**Jen Weidner** 34:51 And you kind of have like a normal schedule now.

**Shawn Grant** 34:55 So but when I was online, my marriage was good. Because my kids were little and when they would get on her nerves and that she calls like, he won't listen to me. He's done this. He's done that or she's doing this and I'm going you you want me to quit my job. I can't go home. I can't come home.

**Jen Weidner** 35:20 Put them on the phone let me straighten them out.

**Shawn Grant** 35:23 It was a little bit of that. And but for the most part, my hat's off to her. Because I raised eight years by myself and it's a job!

**Jen Weidner** 35:37 Absolutely you don't need another part time job when you have kids.

**Shawn Grant** 35:41 So that's one of the things too I've stopped to so that works as I've had custody of my kids like that, but other than cutting the grass. Other than that I'm glad it's just the one job

**Jen Weidner** 35:56 Yeah, you have enough on your plate, being the Chief. So what advice would you give anyone that wants to become a firefighter?

**Shawn Grant** 36:02 I always tell young men, the certifications to become a firefighter are out there if you want to pursue some different avenues to get in there some smaller departments that are just love that help us good qualified young men and women and to become EMTs and get your firefighter certifications. I urge people if you get the firefighter certifications be good because you're gonna get tested. Just because it's on paper doesn't mean that you're getting certified, I always tell people doesn't mean you qualify. So I urge young men and women to start applying to different departments where you can get that training but if you got it already, you really look good to someone who is looking to hire somebody. Because one of the things is I've got a couple two of my guys that are in the pipeline we hired have already went through academy. So what we're gonna do is to do a two weeks skill evaluation on those guys and see if they are proficient in those things they say that they're certified in. And if they do, I can put them online and either alleviate some overtime issues. So that's one of the things I like to see guys who have been in this field. Somebody that we don't have to, I don't like they're not a blank slate so to speak. They kind of got the general general knowledge of firefighting. So you could do that. My thing is as chief I make, all new hires become EMTs. So once the majority of our

department becomes EMT's, we are working on the level of care that we give to the community, so we're gonna take it to the next level. So that's some of the things I'd like to see.

**Jen Weidner** 36:37 Oh Yeah! A lot of times you are the first on the scene.

**Shawn Grant** 38:05 Yeah, most 90% of the time. So before the ambulance gets there, because we're centrally located throughout the city, so we can get there within three to four minutes of the call. So those are some things that I like to see for the future department. Not have an ambulance service. I don't think it will be in demand, there's only nothing else to manage.

**Jen Weidner** 38:30 Where would you put them anyways?

**Shawn Grant** 38:33 Don't need nothing else to manage. But I just want to see us bump our level of care that we get. Those are some challenges. Some of the things that young men do that they could do is become EMTs and get all their fire certifications. And it's out there to obtain.

**Jen Weidner** 38:54 Is there anything else you'd like to tell us?

**Shawn Grant** 38:57 I appreciate you having me.