

## Captain William Hunt officially named SPD Chief of Police

Mayor Eddie Girdler is pleased to announce that upon a vote of approval by The Somerset City Council, Acting Chief William Hunt has been named the new Chief of Police for the Somerset Police Department. The Mayor stated, "I am happy to appoint, upon council approval, William Hunt as Somerset's newest Chief of Police. He follows in the footsteps of retiring Chief Doug Nelson. Chief Nelson was responsible for the department being recognized as one of the top in the state and we are grateful for his service not just to his police department but also this city. The transition has gone well and that says quite a bit about both Doug Nelson and William Hunt. I believe Chief Hunt will move the department into a new era that our citizens can be proud of." Chief Hunt stated that, "I'm very thankful for the vote of confidence in my abilities from Mayor Eddie Girdler and our City Council. We must strive to gain the confidence and support of our citizens through unity as well. Without the united support of our community, we will never reach our full potential as a Police Department, and as a City. We can reach that unity by continuing to be involved in local charitable events and by simply being approachable. We frequently solve crimes because some good citizen has taken the time to be a good neighbor and witness. When we reach the point where we all share the common goal of making Somerset and Pulaski County the best community it can be, I believe the possibilities are limitless."

Prior to joining the Somerset Police Department, Chief Hunt was an Honor Graduate from the United States Air Force Police Academy and served as a member of Security Police. Since joining SPD, Hunt has obtained a long list of achievements and commendations spanning a nearly 21 year career with the Department. Hunt has earned over 2,434 hours of Law Enforcement Training including certifications from the Kentucky Law Enforcement Council (KLEC) in areas such as Intermediate Law Enforcement Officer, Advanced Law Enforcement Officer, Law Enforcement Supervisor, and Law Enforcement Manager. He has vast experience in supervisory positions after having spent a majority of his career with the City of Somerset in some form of leadership role. Hunt was one of the first Active Shooter Instructors ever certified in Pulaski County which afforded him the chance to reach out to schools and businesses, helping to cultivate what he calls "Community Oriented Policing." Hunt advanced quickly in rank with the Somerset Police Department, first being promoted to Sergeant in 2003, and thereafter advancing to Lieutenant in 2006. In September 2013, Hunt was promoted once again after being appointed by the Mayor to Administrative Captain of the Police Department. He has served in that role until his most recent appointment to acting Chief of Police on January 1, 2017. Hunt has already attended a conference for New Police Chiefs, adding to his prior leadership training he received at an Academy of Police Supervision seminar, and a Police Executive Command Course.

It could be said that Chief William Hunt has police work in his blood as the son of the late Roy and Vanessa Hunt. Many in the Somerset area may remember Roy Hunt from many his years of service to both the City of Somerset, and Pulaski County. He served as Jailer for nine years, a Somerset City Police Officer for four years, and a Pulaski County Sheriff's Deputy for two years. William is married to Carla Hunt and they have four children. Chief Hunt and his family attend First Baptist Church in Somerset where he was recently named a Deacon. Photo Credit: Red Shutter Studios