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A deputy chief with the Fort Worth Police Department has been selected to lead the Burleson Police Department as its next chief.

Billy J. Cordell accepted the position today. His first day on the job will be June 2. Cordell was one of 78 to apply when the position opened in December 2013.

Cordell has been with the Fort Worth Police Department since July 1985 and served as a deputy chief since 2011. He was the Fort Worth Police Department's lead planner for Super Bowl XLV.

"I believe that Chief Cordell is the right person at this time to lead the Burleson Police Department and take us to the next level," City Manager Dale Cheatham said.

Cordell graduated from Weatherford Senior High School. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in criminal justice from Texas Wesleyan University in 1993. He earned his master's peace officer certification in 1999 and attended the FBI National Academy in 2000 and Leadership Fort Worth in 2004. During that time Cordell served as lieutenant over jail operations, Neighborhood Policing District One and the violent personal crimes section (1998-2004).

Cordell served as captain over the central division, executive services bureau, and criminal investigations division (2004-2008); major over North Command (Central, North and West Patrol divisions, 2008-2011); and deputy chief over operational command, where he managed grants, contracts, research and planning, records, auto pound and fleet, backgrounds and recruitment (2011-present). Cordell has completed nine hours toward a master's degree in management from Texas Wesleyan.

The Fort Worth Police Department honored Cordell with a Life Saving Award in 1989, Special Services Officer of the Year in 1991 and Command Officer of the Year in 2002 and 2009.

Burleson's selection process began when then-Police Chief Tom Cowan announced his retirement. A committee consisting of Pat Kneblick, Toby Ford, Tommy Ingram, Burleson Police Officer Association President Cameron Pilgrim,

Human Resources Director Maria Reed and Fire Chief Gary Wisdom interviewed 10 of the 78 applicants.

The finalists were narrowed to four in March. They included Burleson Deputy Chief Chris Havens; Jaime Ayala, an assistant police chief in Arlington; Jack Ely, police chief for White Settlement; and Cordell. The city manager and Deputy City Manager Paul Cain interviewed the final four last week.

“Each of the finalists offered unique experience and skill sets,” Cheatham said. “I am grateful for the caliber of talent from which to choose. I think it speaks well of the City of Burleson and the police department that we had such qualified candidates.”