



The City of Graham is pleased to announce that Mary (Kristy) Cole has been selected as the City's new Police Chief, succeeding Chief Jeff Prichard who is retiring.

Chief Cole has been serving as the interim Chief since June 30, 2020 where she was challenged to maintain the City's high level policing services, grow the public safety outreach programs, and provide valuable input as part of the City's management team.

Starting in January 1997, Chief Cole has served in both the Patrol Division and Administrative Division holding the ranks of Sergeant, Captain and most recently Assistant Chief. She has also served as the Accreditation Manager helping achieve the advanced accreditation honor current held by the department.

Chief Cole holds a B.A. in Criminal Justice degree from Western Carolina University and a M.S. degree in Criminal Justice from East Carolina University. She is also a member of the graduating class of the 270th Session of the FBI National Academy in Quantico, VA with further training through the FBI-LEEDA in the Trilogy Series and Policing for the 21st Century. She was recently selected to attend the 202nd Session of Leadership Institute through Impact Alamance.

When notified of the promotion, Chief Cole stated she was "very excited to be able to lead this team of talented professionals who share a commitment to public service and excellence in an internationally accredited police department; but we can't rest on our successes, we must continue to work to build trust, build bridges and strengthen relationships with all members and organizations within our community."

A native of Alamance County, Chief Cole has one daughter, [Estella](#), who attends the University of Utah.

City Manager Frankie Maness stated: "We are confident that Chief Cole's experience and dedication to the profession of law enforcement will immensely benefit the City of Graham Police Department and the City of Graham as a whole. She understands that in order to maintain and enhance safety and service to our community, we must build strong and enduring relationships to heighten effective communication and team-work to properly serve and honor the City of Graham."