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- Daily Leader staff report

The Liberal Fire Department recently announced the promotion of three firefighters to the rank of Lieutenant. Firefighters Ragan Dreitz, Austin Nash and Jose Torres assumed the rank and responsibilities of fire lieutenant effective March 1.

The promotions are the final phase of a reorganization process within the department that began last year. Dreitz, Nash and Torres will immediately assume supervisory responsibilities and act in the capacity of officers of the department, during emergency response and service calls within the community, according to Liberal Fire Chief Kelly Kirk.

“With these promotions, the fire department is operating at full staff and is prepared to move forward in its mission of supporting the goals of the City of Liberal and providing emergency response, prevention and inspection services and safety education to the citizens of the community,” Kirk said.

Dreitz joined the department on Sept. 27, 2004, as a volunteer firefighter. He joined the ranks of the fulltime firefighter and EMT on Feb. 6, 2005.

“In nearly five years of service to the department, Dreitz has demonstrated personal growth and developed knowledge and leadership skills that will serve him well in his new role and increased responsibilities with the department,” Kirk said.

Dreitz will serve as a shift fire lieutenant for the department.

### 3 firefighters earn promotion to lieutenant

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Nash joined the department as a fulltime firefighter and EMT on Oct.

15, 2006. In a relatively short time on the department, Nash has also completed numerous certifications and training to prepare him for promotion to a position of leadership and supervision.

“He has worked hard to quickly learn the operations of the department and understand its role within the city,” Kirk added.

Nash will serve as B shift fire lieutenant for the department.

Torres first joined the department as a volunteer firefighter on March 26, 2003. He accepted a position of fulltime firefighter and EMT on July 17, 2003.

“In more than five years of service to the department, Torres has strived to develop his skills, obtain education and certifications and operate at the highest level in his position,” Kirk said. “He has proven himself worthy of promotion and an excellent candidate for the training and development as a future leader of the department.”

Torres will serve as C shift fire lieutenant for the department.

“The Liberal Fire Department wishes them the very best in their development and hope that they enjoy safe and successful careers of service within the fire department and in the community,” Kirk said.

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