

William Shaw wanted to be a firefighter since his childhood. After graduating with a degree in Business Administration from Bowling Green State University, he began his career in 1984 as a part-time firefighter in Willoughby Hills. He was hired full-time in 1987 and during his career earned certifications as a paramedic, fire instructor, fire inspector, fire investigator, hazardous materials technician and was simultaneously a police officer for eight years. He was promoted to Captain in charge of Fire Prevention and became Chief in 1998. Chief Shaw was hired as Solon's Fire Chief in 2000 and served until his retirement in 2020. During his 36-year career he was active in the Ohio Fire Chiefs' Association serving on various committees, the Executive Board and eventually as President. In addition, he served as a consultant on the International Association of Fire Chiefs Intrastate Mutual Aid System project.

Chief Shaw also enjoys sharing his love of the fire service through teaching. He was an instructor at Lakeland Community College in the Fire Science and Emergency Management programs; an instructor at Auburn Career Center in their firefighter training program; an adjunct instructor for the Ohio Fire Academy and the National Fire Academy in the fire investigation programs.

Chief Shaw is a graduate of the National Fire Academy's Executive Fire Officer Program, a four-year executive leadership program.

"The fire service is, to me, the greatest profession in the world. You meet some of the greatest people but more importantly you get to make an actual difference in the lives of those we serve. At times, that is very humbling and rewarding."