

# NEW FIRE STATIONS

## Central Fire Station 1 (1300 Main Street)



The old Argenta School located at 13th and Main Streets has been demolished and the ground has been prepared for the new Central Fire Station. The new fire station will provide fire fighters faster access to more residents in the Mid City Neighborhood in Ward 1 as well as faster access to Interstate 40. The current Central Fire Station was built in 1962 and is the oldest fire station still in operation in North Little Rock. The historic location is ideal for the new Central Fire Station and will be an asset to the continued revitalization of the Mid City neighborhood in North Little Rock. The new station will feature a baby drop as well as a state-of-the-art decontamination area. Estimated completion date: November 2025.

## NLR Fire Promotes First Black Battalion Chief

North Little Rock Fire Captain Ricky Cranford was recently promoted to Battalion Chief. Chief Ricky Cranford is the first black firefighter promoted to Battalion Chief in the North Little Rock Fire Department. Chief Cranford joined the North Little Rock Fire Department in 1996. During his time as a firefighter, Cranford attended school to become certified as an EMT and also a Haz-mat Technician. Cranford was motivated to move up through the ranks and spent time preparing himself for promotional exams. In 2005, Cranford was



Chief Ricky Cranford

## Fire Station 11 (Blaze Drive)



The City broke ground late in 2023 on a new, 7,600 square foot fire house off Arkansas Highway 165 to serve residents and businesses in the east part of North Little Rock. The site was selected because it will provide quick access to Highways 165 and 391 as well as U.S. Interstate 440 which will enable the North Little Rock Fire Department to quickly respond to all parts of Ward 2. The station will be an upgrade from the current 2,000 square foot house that has a detached engine bay which slows response times. The new, modern two-bay fire station will allow room to grow as the east part of our city continues to develop. The modern industrial design of the new station will match its location and will help encourage further commercial and residential growth in Ward 2. Estimated cost is \$4.6 million and the station should be completed in 2024. CBM Construction is the construction manager. Estimated completion date: December 2024

promoted to Lieutenant and assigned to serve Rose City where he was first exposed to the Haz-Mat team. In 2015, Cranford was promoted to Captain and selected to serve as the North Little Rock Fire Department Administrative Staff Captain. Then North Little Rock Fire Chief Jim Murphy recognized the untapped potential in Cranford and began to expand his duties. Cranford was assigned first as the Haz-Mat team coordinator and later was placed over Recruiting for the department. Cranford has been a beacon for minorities considering a career in public service. He also had the challenging task of being the fire department coordinator for IT and liaison with communications. Ricky aspired to enter the chief officer ranks and throughout his career has felt the desire to be in a leadership role. This desire was encouraged by many people along the way who recognized his potential but Cranford ultimately credits Chief Jim Murphy for mentoring him and really putting him on the path to pursue the rank of Battalion Chief. Chief Cranford hopes to continue to move even higher in rank in the North Little Rock Fire Department.