Johnson County Fire Protection District
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NEWS RELEASE – Saturday, October 24, 2026

Johnson County Fire Protection District Mourns the Loss of Lieutenant Ben Burd

WARRENSBURG, MO – The Johnson County Fire Protection District is saddened to share the passing of Lieutenant Ben Burd, 32, who died this morning following a four-year battle with brain cancer.

Lt. Burd dedicated 12 years of service to the district. He began his career in 2014 as a firefighter assigned to Station 4 in Knob Noster before being promoted to lieutenant in 2022. In 2025, he transferred to the district's Training and Safety Division, where he continued serving as a lieutenant.

He is survived by his wife and two young children.

"Ben dedicated 12 years of his life to this district and the communities we serve," said Fire Chief Larry Jennings. "He grew with this organization, from a firefighter to a lieutenant helping prepare the next generation of firefighters. Our hearts are with his wife and children. We are proud of Lt. Burd's service and deeply saddened that his life ended far too soon."

Lt. Burd also served many years in the United States Air Force at Whiteman Air Force Base.

The Johnson County Fire Protection District extends its condolences to the Burd family, his friends and the firefighters who had the privilege of serving alongside him. The district asks the community to keep his family in their thoughts and prayers.

Information regarding funeral services and memorial arrangements will be released when it becomes available.

<Photograph Included>

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For more information contact:

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