

May 2, 2006

# Cheyenne Herald

**Breaking story ...**

**too late for the last issue of the Herald,  
but too early to hold for the next one**



## Cheyenne Fire Chief Scott Alvord has applied to become fire chief in Boca Raton, Florida



The Cheyenne Herald has confirmed that Cheyenne fire chief Scott Alvord has applied for the position of fire chief in Boca Raton, Florida, to replace recently retired fire chief Bruce Silk.

According to the position advertised by the City of Boca Raton, the new fire chief's salary will range between \$87,018.88 and \$130,102.50, depending on qualifications.

Boca Raton has a population of 85,377 and is located on Florida's "Gold Coast" - four miles north of Miami and about midway between Palm Beach and Fort Lauderdale. The city is bordered on the east by the Atlantic Ocean and is about 28 square miles, with five miles of ocean frontage - according to the same ad.

The department in Boca Raton is known as a Fire / Rescue operation, just as Cheyenne's became after Alvord's arrival.

Boca Raton uses a council-manager form of government, with four council members and a mayor elected at large for non-partisan terms of two years. The Boca Raton City website is: [www.ci.boca-raton.fl.us](http://www.ci.boca-raton.fl.us)

The fire chief is appointed by and serves at the pleasure of the city manager. The city has 1,679 full-time employees and has a current operating budget of \$279,486,800. The fire department has an operating budget of over \$27.5 million and has 219 (197 uniformed) employees operating from eight stations. Chief Silk retired after 33 years with the department.

The City of Boca Raton is using a firm from Norcross, Georgia, to accept resumes. The ad for a new fire chief advises potential applicants: **"Under Florida Law, resumes are public documents and will be provided to the media upon request. Please call prior to submitting your resume if confidentiality is important to you."**

In this case, some city officials didn't seem to want to take that Florida law very seriously. Or didn't think it applied to foreign media.

The Herald contacted the City Manager's office by telephone twice on Friday, April 28, 2006 and twice was promised a return call for confirmation (from assistant city manager Mike Woika) within an hour. None came. Ever.

On Monday, May 1, another call was placed to Boca Raton. This time a return call was promised from a different person (George Brown) within the city manager's office. Again within an hour. It did not come. Ever. Monday night, an e-mail was sent to the city manager (Leif Ahnell) himself. That brought a response to inquiries from deputy city manager George S. Brown. His words: **"Mr. Alvord did submit a resume. No narrowing/winnowing has taken place as yet."**

The Herald supported Trent Blankenship when he accepted a more satisfying position in Barrow, Alaska, and we certainly do not question Cheyenne's current fire chief's prerogative to look elsewhere to improve himself and his family financially and professionally. This is a story because of the great difficulty in the past that Cheyenne has had filling the position with one who is qualified and can pass mandatory testing. It may be very problematic to replace him if he leaves. The full-time position was long vacant before he was hired. *The Herald will not write or imply anything that Boca Raton officials can construe as support or criticism for the job Scott Alvord has done in Cheyenne.*

**Editor's note: A telephone call from the Cheyenne Herald to Chief Alvord seeking his confirmation and comments was not immediately returned on May 2, 2006. It is also rumored that he has made similar applications to other communities but that was not confirmed.**