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Press Release

New York village native joins Arkansas City Police Department

Hammond joined ACPD on Aug. 24, started Sept. 21 at KLETC in Yoder

ARKANSAS CITY, Kan. (October 5, 2015) — One of the Arkansas City Police Department's newest officers now is in his third week of training at the Kansas Law Enforcement Training Center.

Wade Hammond is training alongside another recent hire, Winfield native Corey Combs, at KLETC.

Located near Yoder, 12 miles southeast of Hutchinson, KLETC is where Hammond is participating in a 14-week course to teach him all of the basics of becoming a law enforcement officer in Kansas.

KLETC directly trains the overwhelming majority of municipal, county and state law enforcement officers in Kansas, according to the KLETC website, www.kletc.org.

Hammond started employment with the City of Arkansas City on Aug. 24 and he was able to spend four weeks in field training — mainly learning Ark City's streets and codes of conduct under the tutelage of Master Patrol Officer Ryan Williams, Hammond's field training supervisor.

Once he returns from KLETC, Hammond will finish his 14-week field training program with ACPD.

"It's interesting. There's a lot of reading to do," Hammond said during an interview last month as he was preparing to move from Derby to Yoder in order to attend KLETC in the weeks to come.

Along with another recent hire, Ann Hale, Hammond was introduced to the City Commission during a meeting on Sept. 15. "We're very glad to have him here," Police Chief Dan Ward said that night. "We think he'll be a great fit in this community."

Mayor Chad Giles, a former police officer, commended Hammond on his choice of employer, saying "we have a very good department, a very good chief, and we're proud of where our department is now."

Hammond originally hails from Walton, N.Y., a small village of about 3,000 people located midway between New York City and Syracuse. Most of his family still lives there.

For immediate release

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He said he misses the scenery the most, especially the rolling foothills of the Catskill Mountains.

Hammond came to the Midwest to study sports science and play college football at Northwestern Oklahoma State University in Alva, Okla. He was a center on the Rangers' offensive line.

Hammond attended NWOSU at the same time as another future fellow ACPD officer, TJ Hall, who played on the defensive line for the Rangers. During their last year together in Alva, Hammond injured his shoulder and became an assistant coach.

He then left to coach football, track and wrestling for two years in Enid, Okla., and serve as a special education teacher for the Enid Public School District.

Hammond eventually decided he didn't enjoy teaching, but he knew wanted to find a job that is community-based and allowed him to help people. His positive interactions with an Enid school resource officer ignited his passion to become a police officer.

Selflessness is the biggest thing that attracted Hammond to a life of law enforcement.

"I was always raised to put someone else's needs in front of your own," he said. "It's more fulfilling to help someone else than to help myself, but by doing that, I help myself regardless.

"Despite all the bad press and everyone hating on police officers, they still go out there and do their job, to protect and still try to influence the community. I feel like that's one of the most selfless acts you can do — even when someone's saying they hate you, still trying to put your life on the line (for them)."

In the long term, Hammond said he has considered the possibility of going on to work for the Federal Bureau of Investigation, but right now, he's just trying to become a certified officer.

"I just want to get to know this community," he said last month. "I'm always looking forward and wanting to do more. Someday, I'll be where I want to be."

In his spare time, Hammond enjoys working out and reading. He especially enjoys psychology books, graphic novels and "really good stories," such as Steven King's "11/22/63."

Hammond, who minored in sports psychology, enjoys reading about ethics and psychology, then applying it to his life. As a result, he is interested in someday becoming a detective or investigator.

He thinks his personality and work ethic would be well suited to a career in investigating crimes.

"As a police officer, you can't rush or it will come back to haunt you," Hammond observed. "That's one thing I am proud of — I am methodical in my work, but fast and efficient."