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## PUBLIC SAFETY

# Eules names longtime firefighter as new chief

**Robert Isbell grew up in Haltom City and has worked in firefighting for 25 years in various cities.**

By JESSICA DeLEON  
 jdeleon@star-telegram.com

EULESS — Robert Isbell was named Eules' fire chief Monday.

Isbell, 45, has served as a firefighter in various cities for 25 years and worked in Eules for the past five years as assistant fire chief.



Isbell

He served as Southlake's fire chief from 2002 to 2003, but went to Eules because it's a more traditional department compared with Southlake's Department of Public Safety structure, he said.

Isbell has served as interim chief since March, when former Fire Chief Lee Koontz announced his retirement after 26 years of service.

Isbell said his new title "feels great," but he doesn't plan to change much in the Eules Fire Department.

"It's just to keep carrying the torch forward," he said. "The department has been in a great state of affairs and run impeccably for years. Just to carry on is my goal."

He's also worked in all aspects of municipal fire service, including ambulance work

## Robert Isbell

**Age:** 45

**Background:** grew up in Haltom City  
**Education:** bachelor's in public safety administration, Grand Canyon University, Phoenix, 2007; Executive Fire Officer Program, National Fire Academy, Emmitsburg, Md., 2007; associate's degree in fire protection technology, Tarrant County College, 1996.

**Experience:** Eules assistant fire chief, 2003-08; Southlake fire chief, 2002-2003, and battalion commander, 2001-2002; Mansfield training captain, lieutenant and firefighter, 1985-2001.

**Family:** wife, Laura, and three daughters, Sarah, 20; Hannah, 12; Emily, 11

and hazardous material operations. He's pursuing a master's degree online in executive leadership from Grand Canyon University.

Eules City Manager Gary McKamie said the city chose Isbell for his years of experience.

"I've just been impressed with his level of expertise in the fire field and the level of caring for employees in the community," McKamie said.

"I just think he's a good fit."

JESSICA DeLEON, 817-685-3932

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## Regional Roundup

### Jenni Beauchamp

Area

10 cites make list

of best places to live

Ten North Texas cities made the cut for *Money* magazine's 100 "Best Places to Live."

McKinney was listed as the 14th-best place to live in the nation, followed by Carrollton at No. 15, Richardson at No. 18 and Allen at No. 20.

Euless (34), Frisco (38), Denton (57), Garland (67), Lewisville (69) and Grand Prairie (96) also earned spots.

Texas had 13 cities on the list, more than any other state. Round Rock (7), Missouri City (56) and Sugar Land (64) were the state's other ranked cities.

According to the magazine, cities that made the rankings had the best blend of good jobs, low crime, quality schools, plenty of green space, reasonable home prices, local attractions and a population between 50,000 and 300,000. Jenni Beauchamp

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**Dog shot while attacking another dog**

**EULESS** — A "good-size dog" was shot Wednesday afternoon in the 1300 block of Shady Hollow Drive after the animal crawled underneath the next-door neighbor's fence and attacked another dog. The homeowner shot the intruding dog, which had a smaller dog in its mouth. The mixed-breed dog did not have life-threatening injuries and crawled back under the fence. No charges are expected, police said.

— Candace Carlisle

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**BEST PLACES TO LIVE** Money's list of America's best small cities 2008

**34. Euless, TX**

34 of 100 [Back](#) [Next](#)

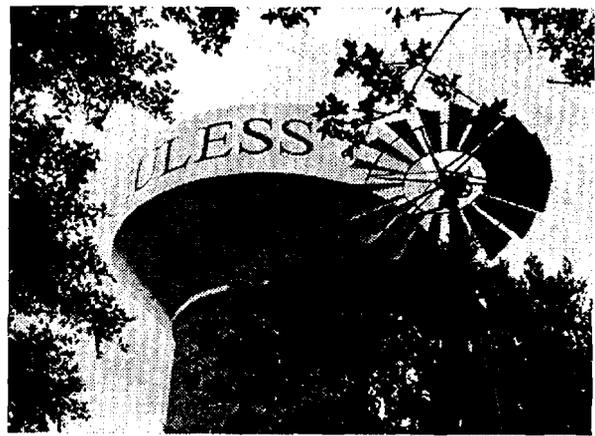
**WINNER**

Top 100 rank: 34  
 Population: 52,000

Compare Euless to Top 10 Best Places

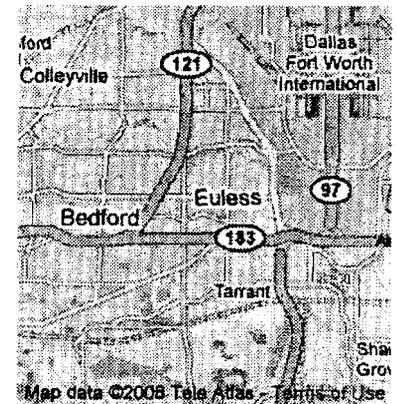
Nestled between Dallas and Fort Worth and minutes from D/FW Airport, Euless is ideal for families who have to frequently commute to distant Dallas suburbs or fly out of the city.

Lots of national and regional businesses are headquartered nearby. And while local amenities are a bit sparse, Euless central location makes it easy to enjoy the entire metroplex, including acclaimed dining and shopping.



A water tower and windmill in Euless

Financial	City stats	Best places avg.
Median family income (per year)	\$70,179	\$93,075
Family purchasing power (annual, cost-of-living adjusted)	\$88,834	\$84,780
Sales tax	8.25%	6.60%
State income tax rate (highest bracket)	N.A.	5.17%
State income tax rate (lowest bracket)	N.A.	2.43%
Auto insurance premiums (Average for the state)	\$1,710	\$1,791
Job growth % (2000-2007)	10.08%	18.72%



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 Click map to enlarge  
 Show: Homes for sale | Million-dollar homes | Top companies | Colleges | Hospitals | Museums | Wineries | Gardens | Ski resorts

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Education	City stats	Best places avg.	Housing	City stats	Best places avg.
Colleges, universities and professional schools (within 30 miles)	27	49	Median home price	\$154,280	\$291,949
Junior colleges and technical institutes (within 30 miles)	23	25	Average property taxes (2007)	\$4,116	\$3,886
Test scores reading	7.9%	17.3%	See Euleless homes for sale		
Test scores math (% above/below average)	14.4%	16.8%	See million-dollar homes		
% students attending public/private schools (located within town limits)	99.2/0.8	89.0/11.0	Weather	City stats	Best places avg.
<b>Quality of life</b>	City stats	Best places avg.	Annual rainfall (inches)	34.39	36.17
Air quality index* (% of days AQI ranked as good)	70.1%	75.9%	% clear days in the area	37	30
Personal crime incidents (per 1,000)	2	2	High temp in July ° F	95.6°	87.8°
Property crime incidents (per 1,000)	31	25	Low temp in Jan ° F	32.4°	22.9°
Median commute time (in minutes)	21.6	23.0	Health*	City stats	Best places avg.
% population with commute 45 mins. or longer	11.1%	15.7%	Has health plan (% of residents)	84.0%	88.3%
% population walk or bike to work	2.6%	3.0%	Body mass index (avg. for residents)	27	27
<b>Leisure and culture</b>	City stats	Best places avg.	Diabetes rates (% of residents diagnosed)	10.5%	9.6%
Movie theaters (within 15 miles)	76	51	Hypertension rates (% of residents diagnosed)	30.8%	27.2%
Restaurants (within 15 miles)	6,080	4,094	Meet the neighbors	City stats	Best places avg.
Bars (within 15 miles)	405	408	Median age	32.8	35.9
Public golf courses (within 30 miles)	281	316	Completed at least some college (% of residents)	65.2%	73.7%
Libraries (within 15 miles)	94	89	Married	50.7%	57.5%
Museums (accredited by AAM; within 30 miles)	8	13	Divorced	14.4%	8.3%
Ski resorts (within 100 miles)	N.A.	33	Racial diversity index (100 is national average; higher numbers indicate greater diversity)	125.4	104.2
Arts funding (Dollars per person of state funds spent on arts)	0.2	1.5	Amount spent on vacations (domestic and foreign, household avg per year)	\$6,748	\$8,007

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**BEST PLACES TO LIVE** Money's list of America's best small cities 2008

Full List Near You Housing Financial Quality of Life



**And the winners are...**

Plentiful jobs, excellent schools, affordable housing - America's best small cities have all that and more. See the top 100 best places to live - including detailed city profiles, homes for sale and million-dollar homes. More

- 1. Plymouth, MN
  - 2. Fort Collins, CO
  - 3. Naperville, IL
  - 4. Irvine, CA
  - 5. Franklin Township, NJ
  - 6. Norman, OK
  - 7. Round Rock, TX
  - 8. Columbia/Ellicott City, MD
  - 9. Overland Park, KS
  - 10. Fishers, IN
- See the top 100

**Best Places Winners**



Show: Texas | Top 10 | All 100

**States**

Texas

**Top 100**

Rank	City	Population
20	Allen	73,200
15	Carrollton	121,600
57	Denton	109,500
34	Euless	52,000
38	Frisco	80,400
67	Garland	217,900
96	Grand Prairie	153,800
69	Lewisville	94,500
14	McKinney	107,500
56	Missouin City	73,600
18	Richardson	99,800
7	Round Rock	92,300
64	Sugar Land	79,900

**Other cities**

Rank	City	Population
	Abilene	114,700
	Alvin	22,400
	Amarillo	185,500
	Arlington	367,100
	Atascocita	48,500
	Austin	709,800
	Baytown	68,700
	Beaumont	109,800
	Bedford	48,700
	Benbrook	22,300
	Brownsville	172,400
	Brushy Creek	26,100
	Bryan	67,200
	Burleson	31,600