Benjamin L. Hunt II

His work history, from public records · Candidate for Mayor of Bella Vista, Ark., 2026

Prepared by Friends of Bella Vista Voters · Oct. 20, 2026 · Every line comes from a public record. Words in quotation marks are his words or the record's. Know the record. Decide for yourself.

MILITARY

First Sergeant, Missouri Air National Guard — 2025 –

- Chosen as a first sergeant in 2025. A first sergeant is an enlisted adviser to the unit's commander.
- Air Force rules say the first sergeant "works directly for and derives authority from the unit commander."
- Air Force rules also say: "Enlisted members cannot exercise command." Only officers command.

Sources: 131st Bomb Wing article, Apr. 2025; Air Force Instruction 36-2113, ¶1.1.1; Air Force rule 51-509, ¶3.2.2.

Cook and Dining Hall Manager, 131st Force Support Squadron, Whiteman Air Force Base — c. 2021 – 2025

- Part-time Guard member ("drill-status"), serving as "a cook with the Missouri ANG."
- Rejoined the military near age 51, after 17 years as a civilian.
- His commander wrote that he became Dining Facility Manager "less than a year after joining the squadron."
- His commander also wrote that he moved "from an informal leader to a formal leader in the services section" and mentored "15 airmen."

Sources: 131st Bomb Wing article, Apr. 2025; letters from his commander, Lt. Col. Eldien, and SMSgt Williams, Jan. 23, 2025.

F-16 Crew Chief, U.S. Air Force — ? – 2004

- Served on active duty and in the Reserves. Left in 2004 as a technical sergeant. No record we have shows when he joined.

OTHER JOBS

Executive Chef, University of Health and Performance — c. Dec. 2023 – ?

Maysville, Benton County, Ark.

- He told the school he "had no experience as a chef." He later said he got the job "100% because of the Air National Guard."

Source: 131st Bomb Wing article, Apr. 2025.

Salesperson (full time), Woodhouse The Timber Frame Company — July 2018 – Sept. 2019

- He worked full time for this other timber-frame company while he also owned Walston Timber Frame, LLC. He left on his own.

Source: Woodhouse, by phone, Oct. 2026.

Front-Office Manager, his wife's dermatology clinic — Jan. 2014

Ozark, Mo.

Source: Springfield Business Journal, "Business Spotlight: Smooth Sailing," Jan. 27, 2014 (sbj.net/stories/business-spotlight-smooth-sailing,15113).

HIS BUSINESSES

Owner, 241 Builders, LLC — Feb. 2019 – Dec. 2025

- Built homes and a concrete storm shelter, 2021–2023.
- Courts ruled against the company four times: Mitchell, $206,839; Rost, $15,503.56; Smith, $176,764 (also against Hunt); and $130,000 in the partnership case (also against Hunt).
- **Dec. 11, 2025:** the Missouri Secretary of State cancelled the company for "failure to maintain a registered agent" (a person the state can send legal papers to). That was 15 days after the Smith ruling.

Sources: Missouri Secretary of State filings; court cases 24LA-CC00097, 2431-AC02517, 2431-CC00977, 2231-CC00319.

"Mahalo Pools," a name he did business under — 2022 – 2023

- Not a company. He never registered the name with the state, so the business was him.
- Built swimming pools. A subcontractor, Eric Brown, says Hunt "used my workers as day labor."
- **Smith pool:** the Smiths sued Hunt personally. The court awarded them $167,511 to tear the pool out and rebuild it. Total ruling: $176,764 against Hunt and 241 Builders (Nov. 26, 2025).

- His LinkedIn says: "National Expansion Manager, Mahalo Custom Pools · Full-time, Jun 2020 – Present."

Source: court case 2431-CC00977 (the petition calls Mahalo Pools "an unregistered fictitious name").

Half owner of two companies with Michael Perry: Walston Timber Frame U.S. and Professional Timber Installers — 2019 – 2021

- Both were new companies. Hunt's company and Perry's company each owned half. Walston U.S. started Feb. 27, 2019. Perry started Professional Timber Installers on Oct. 30, 2019.
- Hunt's own lawyers wrote that his job was sales, and that Perry handled "managing employees, finances."
- Under oath, Hunt said their 2019 shop had "on average, three of four" [sic] employees.
- **Jan. 2021:** the partners agreed to close the companies.
- **Apr. 5, 2021:** Hunt took $12,000 from the company account, "a withdrawal to myself." The same day, 18 paychecks to workers bounced.
- **June 10, 2026:** a jury found Hunt failed in his legal duty to the company and took property that belonged to it. The court ordered him to pay $162,000 to the company.

Sources: Missouri Secretary of State filings; Hunt's answers in court, Dec. 4, 2024; his lawyers' filing, pp. 4–5; Hunt's sworn testimony, pp. 27, 101–106; bank statement, Apr. 2021; court ruling, June 10, 2026.

Founder, Walston Timber Frame, LLC — Jan. 2018 – Apr. 2020

- He started it by himself. In his words, it "began as a personal endeavor" when he "bought a little sawmill and a really BIG chainsaw" to build his own house.
- **Apr. 2020:** he began closing the company. Customers who had paid it for work it never delivered sued it afterward.
- In the Volkl case, filed Aug. 2020 over plans paid for in Sept. 2019, the court found the defendants "although being duly served, fail to appear." It ruled against them in 2021.
- Courts also ruled against the company in the Bekebrede and Broglen cases.

Sources: Missouri Secretary of State filings; Notice of Winding Up; Walston's LinkedIn page; court cases 2031-CC01074, 2031-AC02248, 72CV-21-1762.

Owner, Garnet & Company LLC (Missouri) — Jan. 2008 – May 2018

The Division of Employment Security collects unemployment tax from employers.

- **Sept. 17, 2010:** state unemployment-tax judgment against Garnet, $281.56. Paid March 18, 2011.
- **Nov. 19, 2010:** two judgments, one against Garnet and one against Hunt himself, $571.15 each. Paid Feb. 9, 2011.
- **Dec. 17, 2010:** two judgments, one against Hunt himself and one against Garnet, $889.12 each. Paid March 18, 2011.
- **Dec. 9, 2011:** two judgments, one against Hunt himself and one against Garnet, $381.88 each, including a $100 penalty. Paid March 5, 2012. (Court website; copy still to be saved.)
- **2012:** he brought a Branson job "bigger than his company could handle" to Perry's company (Perry's account).
- **May 13, 2013:** Missouri Director of Revenue judgment against Garnet, $5,471.48. No record that it was ever paid.
- **Summer 2014:** took a $150,000 pool-house job at Lake of the Ozarks, then "stopped showing up," the company that hired him wrote.
- **May 2018:** Garnet closed.

Sources: Case.net, Webster County (10WE-TJ00098, -00117, -00118, -00121, -00122; 11WE-TJ00130, -00131; 13WE-MC00079); Sensory Integration letter, Sept. 11, 2026.

"Go Creative Marketing," later renamed Garnet & Company (Arizona) — Jan. 2002 – Feb. 2008

- The name "Garnet" first shows up in August 2007. His LinkedIn says: "I started Garnet & Company in my living room in 2000."

Source: Arizona Corporation Commission, file L-1015206-0.

EDUCATION (WHAT HE SAYS; NOT CHECKED)

- Bachelor's degree, Marketing Management, Bellevue University (his LinkedIn). NCO Academy and First Sergeant Academy (his campaign website).

COURT RECORD

- 27 lawsuits and legal actions from 2010 to 2026. 22 ended with a court ruling against him or his companies.
- Five of those rulings are against Hunt himself. With interest, they add up to about $451,472 as of Sept. 29, 2026 (our math).
- None of the eight rulings from private lawsuits shows as paid in court records.

WHAT HE SAYS VS. WHAT THE RECORDS SHOW

What he says	What the records show
"I've had thousands of employees." (Candidate forum, Oct. 6, 2026)	Under oath he said his 2019 shop had "three of four" [sic] employees. His company pages on LinkedIn say "11-50 employees."
"Over 25 years of experience as a residential and commercial construction business owner." (His campaign website)	**Jan. 2014:** front-office manager of his wife's dermatology clinic in Ozark, Mo. (Springfield Business Journal) **July 2018 – Sept. 2019:** full-time salesperson for Woodhouse, another timber-frame company (Woodhouse) **c. Dec. 2023 on:** executive chef at the University of Health and Performance (Guard article)
"In 2018 … I brought in a business partner." (His video, Oct. 9, 2026)	In Feb. 2019 he and Perry started a new company. Each man's own company owned half. Hunt's company, Walston Timber Frame, LLC, stayed separate.
"I've had hundreds of people under my command." (Candidate forum, Oct. 6, 2026)	Air Force rules: "Enlisted members cannot exercise command." His commander, Jan. 2025: a part-time "formal leader in the services section" who mentored "15 airmen."
"My personal finances are in order." (His video, Oct. 7, 2026)	Five court rulings against him personally. Three garnishments filed against him in 2026 (orders to take money from his bank or pay). A ruling against him was filed for collection in Benton County on Oct. 15, 2026.

"Our math" figures are Friends of Bella Vista Voters' own calculations, not amounts a court stated. Statements by Michael Perry, Eric Brown and Sensory Integration are their own accounts, not court findings. Every record is linked at friendsofbellavistavoters.com.

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