



## **FIRE DEPARTMENT APPLICANT REQUIREMENTS**

### **JOB SUMMARY**

Firefighter/Paramedics work 24-hour shifts, on a reoccurring 48/96 schedule, under general direction of the Fire Lieutenant. This is a highly responsible professional position that responds to fire alarms and emergency medical calls.

### **REQUIREMENTS**

- Must be 18 years of age and have not reached the age of 40 before the date of testing. Must hold a valid Texas Driver's License.
- Must be a U.S. Citizen. Must possess a high school diploma or GED and at least one (1) of the following qualifications:
  - Must have a current Texas Paramedic License/Certificate issued by the Texas Department of State Health Services and a Basic Structural Firefighter Certificate issued by the Texas Commission on Fire Protection; or
  - Must have a current Texas Paramedic License/Certificate issued by the Texas Department of State Health Services.

Applicants who are hired as Paramedics will be required to obtain a Firefighter Certificate within six months of employment at the City's expense.

### **HIRING PROCESS**

All individuals seeking employment as a Firefighter will undergo the following:

- Open, competitive and free Civil Service written examination, which will test general knowledge and aptitude.
- Physical Ability Test
- Background Investigation

- Oral Interview Board
- Polygraph Examination
- Psychological Examination
- Medical Examination and Drug Screen

## **WRITTEN EXAMINATION**

Applicants will have 2 hours to complete the written examination. It will consist of 100 multiple-choice questions. All applicants will receive an identical examination.

## **PHYSICAL ABILITY EXAMINATION**

The overall purpose of the physical ability test is to assess the applicant's ability to perform fire ground related activities and to gauge the overall physical ability of the applicant.

For safety purposes, applicants are required to wear long pants and closed toe shoes or boots to complete the test. Applicants who do not meet the dress code requirement will be disqualified.

Applicants are also required to wear structural firefighting Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) throughout the physical ability testing. This equipment will be provided for the applicant. Structural firefighting PPE will consist of a bunker coat with the thermal and vapor liner, helmet, gloves and must have met NFPA Standards. The SCBA will consist of the backpack with frame, shoulder and waist straps, and air cylinder of the current in-service model.

This physical ability test consists of the following 2 events:

1. Aerial Ladder Climb
2. Fire Ground Evolution

Each event will be described in detail below including the time allowed to complete the event, if applicable. The applicant must successfully complete both events in order to pass the test.

Applicants may not run at any time during the events, because there is usually no running at a fire scene unless there are extreme circumstances. (We define running as both feet off the ground at the same time). If an applicant runs, they will receive one warning. The next time the applicant runs, they will be disqualified.

## **Event 1: Aerial Ladder Climb**

The purpose of this event is to test the applicant's ability to safely ascend and descend the Aerial device to perform work from an elevated position. (Untimed Event)

Aerial ladder will be at a 70-degree angle and extended to 75 feet  
Applicant will climb the ladder using a "truck" belt and safety line

- Applicant must use a continuous motion, and must touch every rung while ascending and descending the aerial ladder device.
- Each applicant will be instructed to grasp the top rung on the ladder with both hands and remain holding the top climbing rung of the aerial for 15-seconds prior to descent.
- A voice command will signify the completion of the 15-seconds. After the command is given the applicant must then start descending the aerial ladder.
- Applicant must ascend and descend the ladder at a safe pace, but not stop for an extended period of time on the way up or on the way down. Applicant is not allowed to rest at any time. If applicant stops once to rest, they will be given a warning. If applicant stops twice, they will be disqualified.
- Applicants will not have a time limit when conducting the aerial climb exercise; however, they must not pause for more than 10 seconds during the event.
- Applicant's ladder belt will be removed by FD personnel after dismounting the aerial apparatus onto the ground.
- After the applicant's ladder belt is removed by FD personnel the next event, Event 2: fire ground Evolution, will start in 00:30:00 seconds.
- Failure point:
  - Skipping rungs
  - Stopping for more than 10-seconds
  - Stopping more than twice not including the mandatory stoppage at the top rung

Applicant must wait the full 30 seconds prior to starting Event 2: Fire Ground Evolution.

## **Event 2: Fire Ground Evolution**

This event consists of six continuous stages; A, B, C, D, E and F. Each stage will be discussed independently. An applicant who is unable to complete all 6 stages within 6:00:00 minutes will be disqualified.

### **A) Supply Line Deployment**

- 100 feet of 5-inch supply line hose will be used for this stage.
- Applicant walking forward in a continuous motion will advance a 5-inch supply line a distance of 100 feet and gently set the coupling on the ground.
- Failure point:
  - Exceed total time given for entire event
  - Dropping the hose coupling

### **B) Charged Hose Drag**

- 100 feet of 1 ¾ inch hose will be used for this stage. This hose is to be charged and maintained at approximately 100 psi.
- Nozzle shall be secured in the closed position for the test.
- Each applicant will drag the hose a distance of 100 feet then return to the starting point for a total of 200 feet. Cones shall be set up that clearly define the distance.
- Each applicant will return the nozzle to the starting point, and place the nozzle on the ground.
- Applicant will then kneel down and from a kneeling position; pull one 50-foot section of the charged hose line back across the original starting line.
- The applicant can “aim” the nozzle straight down or forward but not backwards.
- The applicant must maintain control of the nozzle throughout the entirety of this event. This is for their safety, as well as, minimizing damage to the equipment.
- Warning point: Improper aiming of the nozzle
- Failure point:
  - Exceed total time given for entire event
  - Lose control of the nozzle
  - Improper aiming of the nozzle

### **C) Hose Loading and Stacking**

- Six sections of 1 ¾ hose will be used for this stage.
- Hose will be stacked in a single stack on the ground next to the tailgate of a truck.
- Applicant shall move each individual hose and place it into three stacks of two on the tailgate of the truck, then return each individual section of hose, into a single stack of 6 on the ground.
- Failure point:
- Exceed total time given for entire event
  - Moving more than one section of hose at a time
  - Failing to place hose into 3-stacks of 2

- Failing to return hose into a single stack on the ground

#### **D) Ventilation Simulator**

- A nine (9) pound dead blow hammer and Keiser Sled will be used for this stage.  
The applicant must drive the sled approximately 5 feet with the sledge hammer.
- The applicant must maintain control of the sledge hammer throughout this stage.
- No pushing or pulling of the sled by the hammer. The applicant will receive one (1) warning for each violation.
- Failure point:
  - Exceed total time given for entire event
  - Lose control of the hammer
  - No pushing or pulling the sled with hammer. 1st violation will result in a warning; the second warning will result in failure.

#### **E) Ladder Carry**

- A 14-foot Roof Ladder will be used for this stage.
- Applicant shall remove a 14-foot roof ladder from the hooks on the wall, then carry the ladder around a cone located 25-feet from the wall; then return the ladder to its original position on the wall for a total of 50-feet.
- At no time may the ladder touch the ground
- Failure point:
  - Exceed total time given for entire event
  - Allowing the ladder to touch the ground

#### **F) Body Carry/Drag**

- A manikin weighing approximately 185 pounds wearing: bunker pants, bunker coat, and bunker boots will be used for this stage.
- Applicant will carry/drag the manikin 25-feet and return the manikin to the starting point, for a total of 50-feet.
- The entire manikin must pass the 25-foot line, and the finish line. Both points will be clearly marked by a line on the ground.
- Manikin may be carried or dragged in any fashion as long as the head does not strike the ground.
- Applicant & entire manikin must clear all lines
- Failure point:
  - Exceed total time given for entire event

- Manikin's head touches the ground

## **ELIGIBILITY LIST**

The names of those candidates who pass the exam will appear on the Eligibility Roster, which will remain in effect for 12 months from the date of the exam unless exhausted sooner. Applicants are ranked by the total score of the written exam plus applicable military points.

## **MILITARY EXPERIENCE**

Applicants must score 70 or better on written test. Five (5) points are added to passing score for military experience with honorable discharge. DD214 must be provided by the exam date.

## **PERSONAL HISTORY STATEMENTS**

All applicants must complete a City of Watauga Fire Department Personal History Statement, which will be used in conducting a thorough background check.

**The City of Watauga is an Equal Opportunity Employer. The Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986 requires the City of Watauga to hire only U.S. citizens and lawfully authorized alien workers. Employability verification will be required of prospective employees.**