



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

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

Event 2: Fire Ground Evolution

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

A) Supply Line Deployment

B) Charged Hose Drag

C) Hose Loading and Stacking

D) Ventilation Simulator

E) Ladder Carry

F) Body Carry/Drag

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.