

# Becoming a Firefighter

WACONIA FIRE DEPARTMENT



2024



Thank you for your interest in becoming a City of Waconia Firefighter!

# Waconia Fire Department



## ABOUT THE DEPARTMENT

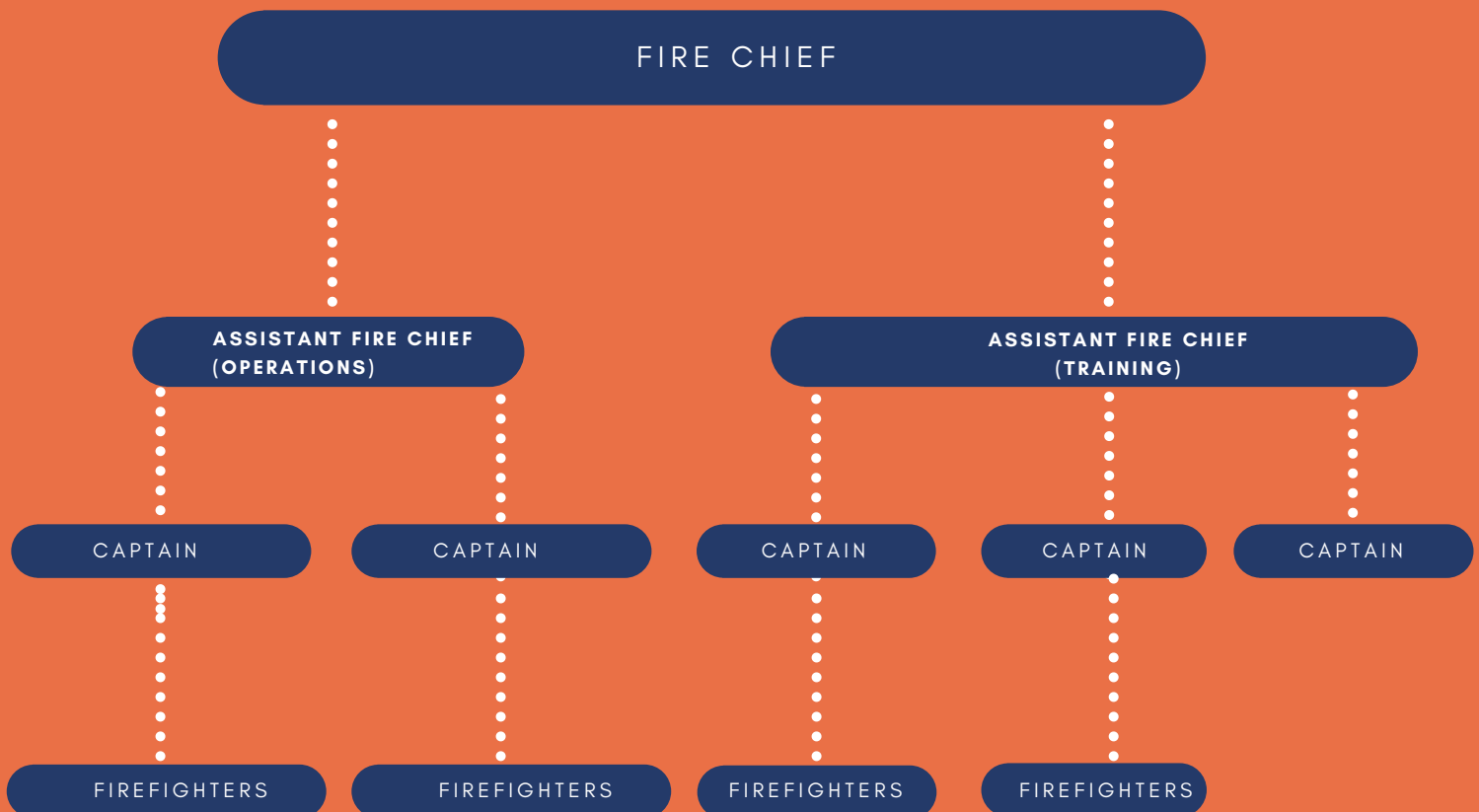
Thank you for your interest in the Waconia Fire Department. This guide is to be used as a resource to provide you with an overview of the Department and to answer any questions you may have about what it takes to be a Waconia Firefighter.

The Waconia Fire Department was established in 1883 and is considered a paid-on-call fire department. The department provides fire, first responder, rescue, fire prevention, and education services to Waconia, Laketown Township, Waconia Township, and our mutual aid partners. The population the Waconia Fire Department serves is estimated to be over 15,000 residing in an area of 37 square miles. The services are provided from one main fire station, centrally located within the City of Waconia. The Department has averaged nearly 1000 calls per year over the last three years, and responds to fires, alarms, medical emergencies, personal injury accidents, carbon monoxide alarms, lake rescue, severe weather events, hazardous materials incidents, mutual aid calls, and for any event when summoned by the public.

Waconia Firefighters typically train at the same standards as typical career firefighters, with the biggest difference being they receive fewer calls than career departments.

The composition of the Waconia Fire Department is very diverse and consists of firefighters from a wide variety of occupations. The department relies heavily on its members to manage almost all aspects of administration and response.

The structure of the Waconia Fire Department can be found below.





## REQUIREMENTS & TRAINING

The following are the minimum requirements that must be met to be eligible to apply for membership with the Waconia Fire Department:

- 18 years of age or older
- Legal resident of the United States
- High school diploma or equivalent
- Live within the City of Waconia or 15 minutes from the Waconia Fire Station
- Willingness to commit the required amount of time needed to maintain the certifications and meet the requirements of the department

## INTRODUCTORY MEMBER REQUIREMENTS

During your first one to two years as an introductory member of the department, you will be required to obtain certification in both firefighting and medical care. This training is provided to you free of charge, in partnership with the Carver County Fire Academy. The Department will do its best to work with your schedule and provide you with the tools and equipment required to attend. This training typically starts in August of each year.

## FIREFIGHTER TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT PLAN



# ACTIVE MEMBER REQUIREMENTS

Once you have completed Firefighter I, Firefighter II, and EMT training, the City of Waconia will pass a resolution making you an active member of the Waconia Fire Department. All active firefighters in the State of Minnesota are required to maintain their licensure in fire, EMS or EMT, and additional certifications to meet the training requirements necessary to do so.

Waconia Firefighters respond to a minimum of 25% of all calls that come in on a quarterly basis. Firefighter safety is the number one concern of the Department - and in order to maintain a high level of safety, there are minimum requirements that must be maintained in addition to responding to calls. Training is extremely critical to the fire service and ensuring firefighter safety. Typically, active Waconia firefighters train between 18-24 nights per year. Firefighters are encouraged to attend 100% of all trainings and are required to attend a minimum of 50% of all trainings.

Fire Department Training	Time Commitment
Fire Training (in-house)	One night per month (Monday); 2-3 hours
Medical Training	One night per month, up to 10 months out of the year (Monday)
Company Drill	One night per month (Monday)
Fire Training (outside education)	Two hours per year, or one class

Waconia Firefighters also have duties and responsibilities outside of regular training. Some of these responsibilities are scheduled, and others are your responsibility to do on your own time. These include:

- Truck Checks (two times per month; 30-45 minutes)
- Business Meeting (one night per quarter)
- Physical Agility Testing (annual requirement)
- Fit Test (annual requirement)
- Gear and Gear Maintenance (gear should be clean and free of defect at all times)
- Apparatus and Equipment (ensure trucks are fueled, cleaned, and stocked after every call)
- Annual Physical (once per year, at the Fire Station)



## WACONIA FIRE RELIEF ASSOCIATION

The Waconia Fire Department is supported by the Waconia Fire Relief Association. The Relief Association is the entity that conducts fundraising, support, and awareness for the needs of the Waconia Fire Department and its members. They also have a lawful charitable gambling entity that raises money for the community through the sale of pull tabs. As a member of the Fire Department, you are automatically considered a member of the Relief Association.

As a member of the Relief Association, there are several time commitments and responsibilities outside of regular department training and response. These include the spring and fall pancake breakfasts and community service events.

# Waconia Fire Department Pay & Benefits



## HOURLY PAY

Waconia Firefighters receive hourly pay for emergency mitigation or call response. Call pay is set up for direct deposit monthly to an account of your choosing.

Position	Pay Rate
Firefighter	\$15.75/hour
Right Seat Certified	\$17.25/hour
Fire Captain	\$18.40/hour
Assistant Chief	\$21.40/hour

\*ALL new firefighters start at the probationary rate of \$13.00 per hour until passing FF1, FF2, EMT/EMR certifications.

## PENSION BENEFIT

The Waconia Fire Department Relief Association offers pension benefits to you. Members who are in good standing are partially vested after five years on the department and fully vested after 20 years. Firefighters must be 50 years of age or older to collect pension benefits.

## SAFARI ISLAND COMMUNITY CENTER

All members receive a single membership to Safari Island, the City of Waconia's community center. This membership can be upgraded to a family membership, with members paying the cost difference between single and family.

## VACATION

Active members in good standing are allowed up to two, seven day vacations throughout the year. Calls missed during this time do not count against the 25% call percentage requirement.

## DUTY OFFICER

Each day, there are two duty officer shifts, from 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and from 6:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. The Chief typically serves as the daytime duty officer. In the evenings and weekends, the Duty Officer typically rotates between the Chief, Assistant Chiefs, Captains, and Right Seat Certified firefighters. Duty officers receive \$49 per duty shift worked.

## MENTOR

A mentor will be assigned to you for your transition on the department, and will assist you throughout your certification process and introductory period.

## EQUIPMENT

The Department will provide you with gear, training, and the tools and equipment required to be an effective firefighter.

## ADDITIONAL BENEFITS

Waconia Firefighters are covered under workers compensation through the City while they are on the job.

The Minnesota Volunteer Firefighter Benefits Association has an on-the-job supplement amount of life insurance with limited benefits that you are provided.

There are additional state and federal death benefits for your family should you lose your life or become disabled in the line of duty.

# How to Become a Waconia Firefighter



## NEXT STEPS

After reviewing the information provided in this handout, if you are still interested in becoming a member of the Waconia Fire Department, there are several steps you must take.

You need to fill out a City of Waconia application. The application can be accessed on the City website at [waconia.org/jobs](http://waconia.org/jobs). Once the application is filled out and submitted, the City will contact you to set up an interview. After the interview, you will be recommended for hire to the City Council, and they will approve a conditional offer. Following the conditional offer, you'll have to complete the following pre-employment steps:

- Background Check
- Physical Agility Test
- Psychological Evaluation

## CONTACT US

### Justin Sorensen

Fire Chief  
763-250-8894  
[jsorensen@waconia.org](mailto:jsorensen@waconia.org)

### Human Resources

[careers@waconia.org](mailto:careers@waconia.org)

### Fire Station Direct Line

952-442-2316



It is the goal of the Waconia Fire Department to provide you with all the resources necessary to make the decision to become a Waconia Firefighter. While the Waconia Fire Department would be considered a part-time job of yours, there is still a considerable time commitment required from firefighters. It is important to understand this time commitment prior to accepting a position as a firefighter, especially due to costs associated with training a new firefighter.

