

FIRE CHIEF

(Competitive Class)

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF THE CLASS

This class encompasses the highly responsible position of chief officer over all fire department operations. The class of Fire Chief includes administrative and supervisory duties as well as the direction and control of fireground operations. The employee of this class directs all fire suppression and emergency operations, sets management policies, goals and objectives for the department, prepares an operating budget, locates grant funding and organizes the personnel management functions of the department. The Fire Chief works independently, reporting to the Bayou Cane Fire Protection District Fire Board of Commissioners.

EXAMPLES OF WORK

Examples listed below are illustrative only. They are not intended to include all duties which may be assigned, neither are they intended to exclude other duties which may be logical assignments to this class.

Manages the total operation of the fire department as chief officer. Develops, initiates, directs, and evaluates the productivity and effectiveness of departmental structure. Directs programs of pre-fire planning, fire inspection, and fire investigation. Develops management policies, goals, and objectives for the department. Reviews incoming communications, delegates assignments or routes work to the appropriate person. Determines target areas for fire prevention or public education efforts and develops such programs to meet identified community needs. Attends conferences, conventions, and other educational meetings. Writes proposals and reviews existing or proposed legislation, regulations, ordinances, or court rulings relating to fire department operations. Testifies on proposed legislation before legislative committees. Maintains proficiency in fire related equipment and duties. Attends training courses to acquire or maintain certification in fire fighting, emergency medical operations, or other related areas as required. Locates available grants for fire protection and prevention projects and writes requests for grants or other special funds to aid in the operation of the fire department.

Develops and implements a safety program for the department and trains subordinates in safety. Monitors any local conditions which may create situations the department may be called upon to handle. Devises a risk management program to control departmental losses, and investigates all accidents or injuries involving department equipment or personnel in order to make changes in procedure to avoid future accidents. Provides for good housekeeping and takes action necessary to control accident hazards.

Oversees and utilizes a system of information management for use in the administration of the department. Supervises the preparation and maintenance of department records and reports, reviewing records and reports completed by subordinates, and periodically inspecting record-keeping systems and facilities. Personally completes all forms, records, and reports required.

Oversees the general care, maintenance, and use of departmental equipment, vehicles, stations and grounds, and other related property. Prepares and reviews products and specifications for fire department equipment. Purchases supplies and equipment for the department within the departmental budget. Obtains estimates on repair costs, arranges for repairs, and inspects equipment or property after repairs to see that repairs were properly accomplished.

Develops and implements an emergency management system. Directs and controls fireground operations, including size-up, equipment and personnel assignments, strategy, communications, and the reevaluation of decisions as necessary. Performs fire suppression duties as may be required in order to assist in the control of the incident. Directs the handling of special tactical situations, emergencies involving hazardous materials and injury or illness and determines action to be taken to contain or control the incident. Directs an investigation program that determines the causes, origins, and circumstances of fires occurring within the fire protection district. Acts as a liaison with law enforcement or other arson investigation agencies, and testifies in court if required.

Evaluates training needs of the department and establishes and maintains the training program. Provides on-the-job training for department members, including explaining policies, procedures, and rules and providing assistance in technical areas of work. Serves as an instructor for formal classroom training and provides for outside instruction. Acts as a consultant for smaller fire departments in surrounding areas, providing them with technical expertise, assistance and cooperation in training and/or fire protection efforts when required.

Organizes the personnel management functions of the fire department. Develops a personnel recruitment and selection program in accordance with EEO standards and interviews prospective employees. Makes personnel management decisions regarding the hiring, and appointment of employees. Assists in the development of and administers a comprehensive personnel plan providing for compensation and benefits. Communicates with boards and agencies whose rules or operations may affect the careers of the fire department employees or the work of the fire department. Establishes and maintains a balance of meeting employee needs without jeopardizing organizational goals. Develops employee grievance resolution procedures for the department and counsels employees who are experiencing work problems. Maintains discipline by reprimanding employees. Recommends suspension or removal from

the service to the Bayou Cane Fire Board of Commissioners.

Oversees the supervision of subordinate personnel by delegating and reviewing assignments, outlining responsibilities and duties, adjusting work schedules, assigning work spaces, approving leave, and setting task priorities and long-term goals. Provides subordinates with supplies, tools, and resources necessary and ensures that resources are used economically. Inspects the appearance of department equipment and subordinate personnel, determines performance standards for department personnel and establishes procedures for evaluating employee performance. Holds formal meetings for the purpose of receiving information and disseminating information.

Promotes a positive public image of the work of the fire department in the daily performance of duties. Handles complaints from the public concerning emergency and non-emergency fire department operations and procedures. Writes letters in response to written or oral requests addressed to the fire department. Coordinates the work of the department with related federal, state, and local agencies. Acts as official department representative to the news media and at required meetings in order to offer advice and keep informed on local trends. Delivers talks or demonstrations on fire prevention or related fire protection topics to schools and civic organizations.

Prepares a departmental operating budget and authorizes the expenditure of funds allocated for departmental operations, making sure such expenditures are in accordance with the budget. Manages the operation of the general accounting system for the department.

Performs any other related duties.

QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

Unless otherwise specified, all requirements listed below must be met by the filing deadline for application for admission to the examination.

Must meet all requirements of the Municipal Fire and Police Civil Service Law, including being a citizen of the United States, and of legal age.

After offer of employment, but before beginning work in this class, must pass a physical examination, the selection and administration of which shall be authorized by the Appointing Authority, designed to demonstrate good health and physical fitness sufficient to perform the essential duties of the position, with or without accommodation.

Must possess a valid driver's license.

MUST MEET ONE OF THE FOLLOWING THREE REQUIREMENTS**EITHER**

Must have a bachelor's degree in fire science, fire administration, business administration, public administration, or a related curriculum and at least five (5) years of progressively responsible experience in full time fire service positions, at least two (2) years of which must have been in positions which include administrative or supervisory responsibilities. Fire service experience must include full time experience with a paid fire department in fire suppression and rescue, and may include work in positions which would provide background in fire prevention and investigation, fire training, and related areas of fire department operations and management.

OR

Must have an associate degree in fire science, fire administration, or a bachelor's degree in an unrelated curriculum and at least seven (7) years of progressively responsible experience in full time fire service positions, at least two (2) years of which must have been in positions which include administrative or supervisory responsibilities. Fire service experience must include full time experience with a paid fire department in fire suppression and rescue, and may include work in positions which would provide background in fire prevention and investigation, fire training, and related areas of fire department operations and management.

OR

Applicant must possess one of the following: high school diploma, high school equivalency certificate, high school transcript, affidavit from the issuing high school, associate's or bachelor's degree, or college transcript, any one of which must indicate that graduation has occurred or a degree awarded. A certification of completion shall not be sufficient to substitute for a diploma or equivalency certificate **AND** must have at least nine (9) years of progressively responsible experience in full time fire service positions, at least two (2) years of which must have been in positions which include administrative or supervisory responsibilities. Fire service experience must include full time experience with a paid fire department in fire suppression and rescue, and may include work in positions which would provide background in fire prevention and investigation, fire training, and related areas of fire department operations and management.

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