

TOWN OF TIVERTON, RI

FIRE CHIEF

Description of Responsibilities and Qualifications

Overview:

The Fire Chief is responsible for managing, directing, and coordinating the operations of the Fire Department in the Town of Tiverton, which has a population of approximately 16,359 and spans 36.3 square miles. The Town operates under a Town Council-Town Administrator form of government, with the Fire Chief reporting to the Town Administrator. The Department currently employs 34 full-time Fire and Emergency Medical Service (EMS) personnel across three fire stations. It has an operating budget of about \$4.1 million.

The successful candidate will be a professional, command-level fire officer with demonstrated experience leading a municipal fire department who values a high level of personal and departmental accountability. The position requires extensive knowledge of fire suppression, emergency medical services, fire prevention, and emergency management, along with the ability to motivate and lead department personnel, coordinate with colleagues in other departments and agencies, and interact productively with elected officials and community members.

Duties and Responsibilities:

- Responsible for the protection of life and property from multiple hazards by directing all Fire Department incident response activity.
- Plans, organizes, coordinates, manages, directs, and commands all office, divisions, operations, personnel, and activities within the fire department including but not limited to fire protection and inspection, firefighting, emergency medical services, fire equipment, hazmat response, and fire facilities maintenance activities of the Tiverton Fire Department, in accordance with state law, the Town Charter, and Town ordinances, policies, procedures, and priorities.
- Serves as Emergency Management Director, responsible for assisting the Town Administrator during an emergency. Acts as liaison between the Town and the Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency. Prepares and maintains an Emergency Operations Plan for the utilization of Town facilities, equipment, and personnel during a declared emergency. Coordinates proactively with the Police Chief and Public Works Director, as well as the Town Administrator, for emergency preparedness, mitigation, response, and recovery.
- Administrative duties include oversight of payroll function, purchasing of supplies and equipment, preparation of budget estimates, documenting, tracking, and evaluating department performance, and reporting on same. Participates in personnel actions such as hiring, termination, assignments, evaluation, and labor relations; promotes equal opportunity in hiring; oversees and ensures the integrity of Department promotional processes; administers labor contracts including grievance procedures and provides discipline as necessary.

- Directs the preparation and analysis of fire records and reports to secure efficient operations, meet service demands and comply with authorized requests for information regarding activities and personnel of the Fire Department.
- Supervises and coordinates the preparation and presentation of a proposed annual budget for the Fire Department to the Town Administrator; directs and controls the implementation of the Fire Department's adopted budget; analyzes and recommends improvements to equipment and facilities as needed.
- Prepares a comprehensive annual plan of specific goals and objectives for the Town Administrator and Town Council.
- Reports to the Town Administrator regularly and proactively.
- Attends meetings of Town boards, commissions, and other community organizations to represent the Department, answer questions and presents reports, plans and recommendations.
- Maintains a current knowledge of developments in the field of emergency services, fire prevention, firefighting operations and administration.
- Oversees department training and safety program to ensure that all safety, loss control and injury protection policies and protocols are known and adhered to by all department personnel. Responsible for taking corrective action regarding training and safety needs.
- Serves on committees, boards, and task forces as assigned.
- Leadership, strategic planning, budget management, crisis communication, and knowledge of fire protection standards.
- The Fire Chief shall be available 24 hours a day unless excused by the Town Administrator.
- The Fire Chief is a non-union position and serves under a three-year contract subject to the provisions of the Tiverton Town Charter.

Qualifications:

- Thorough knowledge of fire suppression and prevention and emergency medical principles and techniques.
- Thorough knowledge of relevant local, State, and Federal laws and regulations.
- Knowledge of the physical layout of the Town including fire hydrants, water supply, and street system.

- Considerable knowledge of the principles and practices of public administration, including financial management.
- Demonstrated ability to command fire and other emergency incident scenes.
- Ability to proactively plan, organize, and direct the work of Fire Department employees.
- Ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships with subordinates, public officials, other local, State and Federal governmental agencies, the media, community/business leaders and organizations and the general public.
- Ability to compose clear and correct written correspondence and reports.
- Ability to read, analyze and interpret general business periodicals, professional journals, technical procedures, and government regulations.
- Excellent computer skills including proficiency in Microsoft Office, database management and financial programs.
- Must be able to maintain highly confidential information, such as personnel records, criminal investigations and records, and personal information about residents, among others.
- Must successfully pass pre-employment physical examination and a background check as a condition of employment.

Minimum Experience and Training:

- Minimum of ten (10) years of experience with progressively greater responsibility in fire department management, firefighting, fire prevention and EMS; five (5) years of experience in a command position; and two (2) years of administrative experience.
- Associate's degree in Fire Science, Management, Public Administration or any equivalent combination of education, training and work experience.
- Fire Instructor I certification.
- Fire Department Safety Officer certified within one (1) year of appointment.
- The ability to drive a motor vehicle in Rhode Island. Must hold and maintain a valid driver's license as a condition of employment.
- Rhode Island EMT-Cardiac or Paramedic certified.
- Physical Requirements: Ability to pass a pre-employment medical exam, wear SCBA, and perform physically demanding tasks.
- All certifications must be maintained as a condition of continued employment.

Preferred Experience and Training

- Bachelor's and/or Master's degrees in Fire Science, Management, Public Administration or related fields.
- Minimum 7–10 years in firefighting, including at least 3–5 years as a company officer (e.g., Captain, Battalion Chief).
- Fire Officer I certification.
- State of Rhode Island – Assistant Deputy State Fire Marshal certified.
- Enrollment in or completion of the National Fire Academy's Executive Fire Officer Program.