



The Arlington Fire Department
200 Commercial Street, P.O. Box 18 Arlington, WI 53911
(608) 635-4717
"Proudly serving the since 1909"

From the Chief

Dear Firefighter Applicant,

Thank you for taking an interest in joining the Arlington Fire Department. The position of a firefighter is one of tremendous responsibility and individual dedication. Being a firefighter demands a great deal of time and dedication from each and every individual.

Because of your interest and in anticipation of possible questions or the need for further information, the Department has prepared this packet of materials for your review and further consideration.

Our Fire Department is held in the highest esteem. This is a progressive organization that maintains the highest level of professionalism and expertise. Becoming a member of the Arlington Fire Department carries with it not only pride, but also tremendous responsibility. This Department is very proud of the men and women who are members of our organization. The individuals you will meet are highly motivated and committed to the betterment of the community.

We constantly strive to enhance, upgrade and improve the level of fire protection and emergency services provided in our community and the fire district. In doing this, our Department constantly strives to improve the capabilities of the organization and our personnel.

We hope the information contained in this packet is helpful to you and your family. Should you have further questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Arlington Fire Department. If you would like to apply to be a member of the Arlington Fire Department after review of this packet, an application is included. We look forward to discussing this opportunity with you more!

Sincerely,

Joe Barman

Joe Barman,
Fire Chief
Arlington Fire Department



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WHY VOLUNTEER

Why not? Ask any Volunteer Firefighter why they accepted the challenges they do. What was the turning point in their decision to become a Volunteer Firefighter? Each one will tell you in their own words that being a part of the Arlington Fire Department can fulfill a basic and personal human need... the need to contribute to a worthwhile endeavor and to help others. As Firefighters work to fulfill their need to help others, they also meet the ever-growing needs of their community.

We all have a need to feel important. We want to accomplish certain goals in our lives and grow as a person. We seek challenges in our life, excitement from our daily routines, and a chance to form new and lasting friendships with individuals who have common goals.

Being a volunteer firefighter provides all of these opportunities. As a Volunteer Firefighter, you will enjoy achievements, gain increased self-respect, receive personal and community recognition, but most importantly you will receive the rewards that come from helping others. Yes, firefighting is hard work, but the time spent with fellow firefighters is enjoyable and builds a sense of teamwork and accomplishment.

Firefighting is very demanding of an individual. Many hours of training are involved, requirements must be met. Regulations and standards are to be upheld. Many Volunteer Firefighters are not compensated in the traditional way for their effort. There may not be a paycheck, nor any monetary bonuses or financial incentives to work harder.

However, there is a reward! It comes from the pride the individual has in one's self and by being a member of the Arlington Fire Department. It comes from the feeling of being a part of a team effort, which you will enjoy. It comes in the form of a friendly handshake from a grateful homeowner and a mother's smile of gratitude. The child's awe as they see the inside of a fire truck, getting to run the siren or honk the fire truck's air horn, while talking to one of their heroes. It comes from the smile of a neighbor; friend or family member in your community who congratulates you on being a part of a thriving; valuable and irreplaceable community organization.

Why volunteer? Look inside yourself. If you have a desire to help others, experience the excitement that comes from a job well done, and have pride in yourself and others just like you, you will find the answer.

Volunteer firefighting will never make you rich monetarily. Those who have come before you will tell you that no amount of money is worth the fulfillment of the basic need to help and be of service to others. There is no price on that.



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VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS

Are you a good candidate for the Arlington Fire Department? The Volunteer Firefighter can be:

- A teacher, student, farmer, businessman, nurse, carpenter, restaurant owner, banker, office worker, husband, wife, son, or daughter
- An individual who makes a personal sacrifice of their time, blood, sweat, and tears
- An individual who performs in a firefighter capacity not for monetary reward, but purely for the satisfaction of helping others
- An individual who performs well under pressure and finds satisfaction in facing sometimes seemingly unconquerable challenges
- An individual who wants to make a contribution to his or her community
- An individual who is gratified by a simple statement of "Thank you for your help"
- An individual who enjoys the challenges and excitement of life
- An individual who finds social gratification in being a member of a group of individuals bound together by a common goal or desire
- An individual who is willing to face the extremes of weather in both day and night when a home may be threatened by fire or a life may be in trouble
- An individual who desires to be a part of one of the most professionally oriented organizations in their community
- An individual to whom a young child or old adult can look up to for help
- An individual who is willing to be an educator and a friend
- An individual who inspires others by their dedication, selflessness, and dependability
- An individual who goes beyond the normal daily routine and faces the challenges of tomorrow...today

Could this Individual be YOU?



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APPLICATIONS

Who Can Apply?

Applicants for the position of a Volunteer Firefighter must be 18 years of age or older and should be in good physical and mental health. Drug screening may also be required. The applicant must possess a current state driver's license, have a good driving record and either own or have access to a dependable vehicle.

A question that is often asked by applicant is: "Will I be required to respond to every call or be available 24 hours a day?" The answer is no, your ability to respond is extremely important though. General availability to respond to emergency calls is important however; the Fire Department understands that some individuals may be at work, school or out of town, which prohibits their ability to respond to every incident. Your availability at other times is necessary and appreciated. Your attendance at required training sessions during your probationary period, ability to respond, work schedules, etc. will be evaluated during the interview process on an individual basis.

How Do I Apply?

You are required to complete and file an application with the Fire Department. You can request that an application be emailed or mailed to you. You may also stop by the Fire Department or the Village of Arlington Office to pick up an application.

Once filed; your application will be reviewed by the Fire Department Officers. There will be a background check completed on each applicant. It is important that all information requested on this application be completed in detail. Failure to provide adequate, accurate information will be just cause for rejecting your application for membership. You may then be notified if an interview is requested. Your application will then be presented to the membership for approval. Once approved the Fire Chief will mail you a letter of acceptance with the next dates that you can show up to receive Department issued property.

Becoming a member of the Arlington Fire Department requires careful selection. This selection process is designed to help the Fire Department recruit men and women who will become the safest and most effective firefighters on any emergency scene.



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TRAINING

As a Volunteer on the Arlington Fire Department, you will become a team member of one of the most respected volunteer organizations in the United States.

As a Probationary Firefighter, you will undergo training that will provide you with the necessary information, training and skills of basic of firefighting. This training will be a mixture of lecture, practical instructions, hands-on skills, and self-study. During your probationary period, you will be learning your job skills as a Firefighter. This is important to ensure your safety as well as the safety of other firefighters you will be working with.

Training programs that will be covered during your probationary period will include the following topics:

- Introduction to the Fire Service and Fire Service History
- Firefighter Safety
- Firefighter Personal Protective equipment (PPE) including Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) Practices
- Incident Command and Fire ground Communications
- Building Construction
- Fire Behavior
- Fire Hose and Fire Streams
- Water Supply
- Forcible Entry, Ladders and Ventilation
- Search and Rescue

Upon successful completion of your probationary period, the membership will vote to see if you will become a permanent member of the Arlington Fire Department. This however, does not end your training. In fact, your service as a volunteer firefighter begins with your continuing education to stay abreast of training skills and firefighting techniques, latest equipment and emergency procedures relating to fire and emergency services. Fire Science is constantly changing and firefighters want to keep up with the latest information to save Lives and Property; ours and that of the public.

You will continue to receive your training on a regular basis by attending the departments training classes, classes provided by the State of WI and by the State of Wisconsin training organizations.



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Benefits

Membership in the Wisconsin State Firefighter's Association, which entitles you to the following:

- \$1,500 AD&D - Accidental Death & Dismemberment coverage is 24 hours a day extending coverage for both on & off duty from firefighting activities.
- \$1,000 Covered Illness Death Benefit - Payable if a member suffers a Covered illness which resulted from a Covered Activity and causes the loss of life.
- \$100 Income Protection Benefit –Maximum Weekly Total Disability Benefit payable for up to 260 weeks for Volunteer Members and up to 104 weeks for Career Personnel for total disabilities sustained while on active duty which prevent a member from returning to his or her normal occupation.
- Six issues of the Wisconsin Fire Journal, a magazine to keep you updated on what is going on in legislation, new equipment, etc. throughout the United States.

Coverage provided for you under the Volunteer Firefighter Blanket Accident Policy; if it occurs during a fire department activity:

Accidental Death and Dismemberment

- Death Benefit \$50,000
- Disability Benefit \$500 / week 5 years

These benefits are subject to change without notice based on yearly renewals.

Wisconsin Fallen Firefighter Benefits Website lists benefits available through the State of Wisconsin.

Website: <http://www.firehero.org/resources/family-resources/benefits/local/wi/>

Fire Department issued property for your use during your tenure:

- Personal Protective Equipment
- Personal Equipment to carry and aid you in your job duties
- Pager to receive pages to respond
- Point system used to receive minimal compensation for calls attended
- Training programs both in-house, at Madison College, and when available from outside vendors
- Length of Service Award (LOSA) – This is a retirement program funded by the Arlington Fire Department and the State of Wisconsin. It has minimum requirements to qualify each year. You will be 50% vested once you have completed 10 years of qualified service. That percentage rises from then until fully vested after 20 years of qualified service.



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History of Our Fire Department...

This important civic organization was granted permission by the State of Wisconsin to form a corporation, "to aid and assist in the extinguishment of fires" on December 21, 1909. However, the first fire station had been built two years earlier and it stood along the alley between Reagles and Main Streets. An old hand-pumper was the first firefighting equipment. In 1918 a Model T Ford Fire Truck was purchased. The equipment soon became inadequate and so, too the quarters.

In 1949 a modern brick Fire House was built on Pierce Street, with additions made in 1958 and 1964. This also became inadequate and a new Fire Station and Community Center were built in 1976 on Commercial Street. The brick Firehouse was used by the Village of Arlington until 2001 and is now the EMS Headquarters.

Over the years many pieces of firefighting apparatus have been purchased, the department currently has a front line engine and a secondary engine, two 2300 gallon tenders, a 4x4 brush truck and first response unit, a rescue squad, and an off road UTV with tracks utilizing two interchangeable skid units; one for wildland fires and patient rescue during warmer weather and a winter time rescue unit.

The Fireman's organization in the early 1930's, purchased six acres of land on the north side of the Village for a community park. It was drained, plowed and seeded by volunteer workers. A few years later another tract of land was purchased and added to the park. It was well planted with shade trees, two ball diamonds were laid out, and lighting was installed along with drain tile. The Arlington Fire Department recently purchased another 10 acre parcel of land that is adjacent to the current Fireman-Owned Park for future expansion. The Volunteer Firefighters have a weekly cleaning schedule for the park that involves making sure restrooms are clean, stocked, and garbage is removed for the next weekend. We also have elected Trustees that report back to the membership about the park and its shelters; this covers everything from maintenance, landscaping, and upkeep issues, to replacing burnt out lights. The Firemen also ensure that the ball diamond, lights, and fencing are kept up. There is a large shelter and a small shelter, with electricity that are available to be rented out for private parties, family reunions, group picnics, wedding receptions and other events. The Firemen are proud to be able to provide this park and make it available for kids and families to use.

We are fortunate to have the outreach and support of the local Lions Club, Curling Club, Snowmobile Club and their members. They assist with our events and fundraising for new equipment. It is nice to have a working relationship and be in good standing with the community. We are always looking at ways to meet the ever-growing need of the community and welcome new members at any time.