

FIRE DEPARTMENT ORDINANCE OF UNITY

Section 1. Title.

This ordinance shall be known as the Fire Department Ordinance of Unity

Section 2. Purpose.

The purpose of this ordinance is to establish a Municipal Fire Department, and to define the powers and duties of the chief and members of the Department. An additional purpose of this ordinance is to provide the maximum legal protection available to the Fire Chief and municipal firefighters, and to best protect the health, safety and welfare of the residents of Unity.

Section 3. Establishment.

Pursuant to Art. VIII, pt. 2, § 1 of the Maine Constitution, 30-A M.R.S.A. § 3001 and § 3153 *et seq.*, the municipality of Unity hereby establishes a Municipal Fire Department.

Section 4. Definitions.

Municipal Fire Department: The organized fire fighting unit established pursuant to this ordinance.

Municipal Firefighter: an active member, whether full-time, part-time, or on call of the municipal fire department, who aids in the extinguishment of fires or an individual that receives compensation from the municipality for aiding in the extinguishment of fires, and is at least 18 years of age.

Section 5. Duties.

The Municipal Fire Department shall prevent and extinguish fires and provide firefighting protection within the municipality of Unity and elsewhere as provided by mutual aid or other contractual agreements approved by the municipal officers or municipal legislative body.

The Municipal Fire Department shall also be authorized to provide emergency services by responding to and managing other public safety emergencies, including, but not limited to, medical emergencies, hazardous materials incidents or natural or man-made disasters.

Section 6. Fire Chief.

- A. **Appointment.** The Fire Chief shall be appointed by the municipal officers for a term of 1 (one) year, in April of each year or at any other time, in order to fill a vacancy.
- B. **Compensation.** The Fire Chief's compensation shall be established by the municipal officers.

Enacted June 5, 2021

Revised, December 2022

- C. Powers and duties. The Fire Chief shall have the powers and duties set forth in 30-A M.R.S.A. § 3153, except that administrative rules and regulations promulgated by the Fire Chief shall not be effective until approved by the municipal officers.
- D. Reports. The Fire Chief shall submit a written monthly report on the activities of the Department and shall discharge such other duties as may be required by the municipal officers.

Section 7. Firefighters.

Municipal firefighters shall have the powers and duties set forth in 30-A MRSA § 3151 *et seq.*, and as set forth in any administrative rules and regulations adopted pursuant to section 6(C) above.

Section 8. Deputy Fire Chief. A Deputy Fire Chief shall be appointed by the Fire Chief, to act with full authority in the absence of the Fire Chief, and shall have responsibilities as set forth in any administrative rules and regulations adopted pursuant to section 6(C) above.

Section 9. Other officers. The Fire Chief may appoint other officers as deemed necessary.

Section 10. Severability The invalidity of any portion of this ordinance shall not invalidate any other part thereof. Section

11. Effective Date. This ordinance shall be effective upon its adoption by the municipal legislative body.