

CHAPTER 5

FIRE DEPARTMENT

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5.01 FIRE DEPARTMENT ORGANIZATION

The organization of the Fire Department for the City of Augusta will consist of a Fire Chief selected by the firemen with the approval of the City Council and assisted by volunteer firemen.

5.02 FIRE CHIEF AND FIRE INSPECTOR

- (1) **Fire Chief Duties and Powers** The Chief shall have general supervision of the Fire Department Personnel, apparatus and equipment, subject to the ordinances of the City and the bylaws of the Department. He shall be present at all fires and command all fire fighting operations. He may demote or expel any officer or member of the Department for neglect or refusal to perform Department duties, subject to the right of any members demoted or expelled to appeal to the City Council.

5.03 FIREMEN

- (1) The membership of the fire department for the City of Augusta will be on a volunteer basis entirely.
- (2) **Age Limits** Active membership in the Department for members other than the Chief shall cease at the age of 65. Upon reaching the age of 65, active members shall become honorary members and shall be relieved from fire fighting duties.

5.04 POLICE POWERS OF DEPARTMENT

- (1) **Authority at Fires** The Chief and his assistants or officers in command are hereby vested with full and complete police authority at fires and may cause the arrest of any person failing to give the right of way to the Fire Department responding to a fire call.
- (2) **Removal of Property** The Chief shall have the power to cause the removal of any property whenever it shall become necessary for the preservation of such property from fire or to prevent the spread of fire or protect adjoining property, and during the progress of any fire he shall have the power to order the destruction of any property necessary to cause the removal of all wires or other services where the same impede the work of the Department during the progress of a fire.

- (3) **Firemen May Enter Adjacent Property** It shall be lawful for any fireman acting under the direction of the Fire Chief or any officer in command to enter upon the premises adjacent to or in the vicinity of any building or other property then on fire for the purpose of extinguishing such fire and no person shall hinder, resist or obstruct any fireman in the discharge of his duty as hereinbefore provided.
- (4) **Duty of Bystanders to Assist** Every person who shall be present at a fire shall be subject to the orders of the Fire Chief or officer in command and may be required to render assistance fighting the fire or in removing or guarding property. Such officer shall have the power to cause the arrest of any person refusing to obey said orders

5.05 TERRITORIAL LIMITS

The original limits for the Fire Department of the City of Augusta will be the City boundaries. The territorial limits may be extended to serve neighboring townships by contracting with said townships.