

CHAPTER 5

FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES

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5.01 ADOPTION AND ESTABLISHMENT

- (1) **Adoption of Fire Code** The NPA 1 Fire Code 2012, subject to the modification specified in chapter SPS 314 of the Wisconsin Administrative Code, as amended from time to time, is hereby adopted and incorporated herein by reference.
- (2) **Establishment of Fire and Rescue Services** Fire and rescue services shall be provided pursuant to a Joint Fire Service Agreement between the City of Augusta and Town of Bridge Creek and delivered by the Augusta-Bridge Creek Fire Department, Inc. (Fire Department), a non-profit corporation, consistent with Wis. Stat §§ 60.55 and 60.565. The territorial limits of service shall encompass the entirety of the City of Augusta boundaries. The territorial limits of service shall encompass the entirety of the City of Augusta boundaries as defined in the inter-municipal agreement and further detailed in the Fire Department Bylaws.
- (3) **Bylaws and Policies** The Fire Department shall adopt bylaws and policies for its internal control and management. These bylaws, and any subsequent amendments, shall not become effective until formally approved by a majority vote of the City Council. The City Council and the Fire Department leadership shall review and re-approve the bylaws at least once every three (3) years.

5.02 FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

- (1) **Appropriations and Budget Submission** The City Council shall appropriate funds for Fire Department operations, apparatus, and equipment as the Council deems necessary. The City shall fund its share of the approved operations budget based on the percentage determined by the Joint Fire Service Agreement.
- (2) **Annual Budget Deadline** The Fire Department must submit its detailed annual budget request to the City Clerk by September 10th of each year. Failure to meet this deadline may result in the City being unable to guarantee full funding for the ensuing fiscal year.

- (3) **Annual Financial Statements** For fiscal oversight, the Fire Department shall submit to the City Clerk an Income Statement, Balance Sheet, year-end bank statements, and required government filings (e.g., Form 990 or DFI reports) within 90 days of the close of the Fire Department's fiscal year.

5.03 ORGANIZATION AND AUTHORITY

- (1) **Organization and Membership.** The Fire Department shall consist of a Fire Chief and volunteer firefighters.
- (2) **Selection of Chief** The Fire Chief shall be nominated by a majority vote of the Fire Department membership. Such nomination shall be subject to confirmation by a majority vote of the City of Augusta Council. The selection process and term of office shall be governed by the Joint Fire Service Agreement and the Fire Department Bylaws.
- (3) **Membership Ability and Status** The Fire Chief is vested with the authority to assess the physical and mental capacity of any active member (excluding the Fire Chief). The Fire Chief may, in consultation with the Fire Board, relieve a member from active firefighting duties based on their ability to perform required tasks. Members so relieved shall transition to honorary membership status.
- (4) **Powers and Duties of Fire Chief** The Chief shall have general supervision of personnel and apparatus. The Chief or a qualified designee shall command all firefighting operations and is vested with full police authority at the scene of an emergency.

5.04 OPERATION AND ENFORCEMENT

- (1) **Control and Care of Apparatus** The Fire Chief shall be responsible for the maintenance and readiness of all apparatus. Apparatus shall be used exclusively for official business (fire, EMS, rescue, training, mutual aid). Non-emergency "Public Service" activities (e.g., filling swimming pools, community parades) are permitted provided they do not compromise readiness and comply with the fee schedule established by the Fire Board.
- (2) **Authority at Fires** The Fire Chief may cause the arrest of any person failing to give the right of way, may order the removal or destruction of property to prevent the spread of fire, and may require bystanders to render assistance.
- (3) **Discipline and Appeals** Any member suspended, demoted, or expelled may appeal to a Joint Disciplinary Committee comprised of the City of Augusta Council and Town of Bridge Creek

Board. The appeal shall be heard in a joint session, and a majority vote of the combined membership present is required to sustain or modify the discipline.

(4) **Fire Inspectors** The Fire Chief or designee shall act as Fire Inspector and shall perform semi-annual inspections of all public and commercial buildings within the City.

(5) **Reimbursement for Service**

(a) **Hazardous Materials** Parties responsible for hazardous material incidents are liable for the actual costs of labor and materials for cleanup.

(b) **Vehicle Fire Costs:** Pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 60.557, the Fire Department may charge for actual out-of-pocket costs incurred for fire calls on County or State highways.

5.05 PENALTIES

(1) The penalty for violation of any provision of this chapter shall be a penalty as provided in s. 15.04 of this code. A separate offense shall be deemed committed on each day on which a violation occurs or continues.

5.06 EFFECTIVE DATE

This Ordinance shall take effect after passage and publication.

Chapter 5 of the City Code is hereby repealed and recreated in its entirety. Effective 04/23/2026