

CHAPTER 35

FIRE DEPARTMENT

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35.01 ESTABLISHMENT AND PURPOSE. A volunteer fire department is hereby established to prevent and extinguish fires and to protect lives and property against fires, to promote fire prevention and fire safety, and to answer all emergency calls for which there is no other established agency.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 364.16)

35.02 ORGANIZATION. The department consists of the Fire Chief and such other officers and personnel as may be authorized by the Council.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 372.13[4])

35.03 APPROVED BY COUNCIL. No person having otherwise qualified shall be appointed to the department until such appointment is submitted to and approved by a majority of the Council members.

35.04 TRAINING. All members of the department shall attend and actively participate in regular or special training drills or programs as directed by the Chief.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 372.13[4])

35.05 COMPENSATION. Members of the department shall be designated by rank and receive such compensation as shall be determined by resolution of the Council.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 372.13[4])

35.06 FIRE CHIEF APPOINTED. The Council shall appoint the Fire Chief for a term of one year or to fill a vacancy. The Council shall be furnished the department's attendance records for drills, meetings and fires, and shall give due consideration to such records in approving the appointment of a Fire Chief. The Council may remove the Fire Chief by written order setting out the reasons for removal which shall be filed with the City Clerk.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 372.13[4])

400.13 Chief of police and chief of fire department.

1. The chief of the fire department and the chief of the police department shall be appointed from the chiefs' civil service eligible lists. Such lists shall be determined by original examination open to all persons applying, whether or not members of the employing city. The chief of a fire department shall have had a minimum of five years' experience in a fire department, or three years' experience in a fire department and two years of comparable experience or educational training. The chief of a police department shall have had a minimum of five years' experience in a public law enforcement agency, or three years' experience in a public law enforcement agency and two years of comparable experience or educational training. A chief of a police department or fire department shall maintain civil service rights as determined by section 400.12.

2. Any person who becomes chief of police or chief of the fire department shall be allowed to transfer all rights the person may have acquired under chapter 410 or 411, including employer contributions during the person's years of service in a city, employee contributions, and interest, to the retirement system of the city that hires the person as chief. Such person shall also transfer the number of years served as seniority toward other benefits provided by the city which hires the person. If a chief of a police or fire department is relieved of that position, the person shall be entitled to remain in the department for which the person was chief at a position commensurate with the person's civil service status, even if this means that the city must create a position for the person to fill until a regular position becomes vacant.

3. In cities under the commission plan of government the superintendent of public safety, with the approval of the city council, shall appoint the chief of the fire department and the chief of the police department. In cities under a council-manager form of government the city manager shall make the appointments with the approval of the city council, and in all other cities the appointments shall be made as provided by city ordinance or city charter.

[C24, 27, 31, 35, 39, §5699; C46, 50, 54, 58, 62, 66, 71, 73, §365.13; C75, 77, 79, 81, §400.13]
86 Acts, ch 1171, §1; 2017 Acts, ch 54, §76

Referred to in §372.4, 400.6

400.6 Applicability — exceptions.

This chapter applies to permanent full-time police officers and fire fighters in cities having a population of more than eight thousand, and to all appointive permanent full-time employees in cities having a population of more than fifteen thousand except:

1. Persons appointed to fill vacancies in elective offices and members of boards and commissions and the clerk to the civil service commission.

2. The city clerk, chief deputy city clerk, city attorneys, city treasurer, city assessor, city auditor, professional city engineers licensed in this state, and city health officer.

3. The city manager or city administrator and assistant city managers or assistant city administrators.

4. The head and principal assistant of each department and the head of each division. This exclusion does not apply to assistant fire chiefs and to assistant police chiefs in cities with police departments of two hundred fifty or fewer members. However, sections 400.13 and 400.14 apply to police and fire chiefs.

5. The principal secretary to the city manager or city administrator, the principal secretary to the mayor, and the principal secretary to each of the department heads.

6. Employees of boards of trustees or commissions established pursuant to state law or city ordinances.

7. Employees whose positions are funded by state or federal grants or other temporary revenues. However, a city may use state or federal grants or other temporary revenue to fund a position under civil service if the position is a permanent position which will be maintained for at least one year after expiration of the grants or temporary revenues.

[SS15, §1056-a32; C24, 27, 31, 35, 39, §5694; C46, 50, 54, 58, 62, 66, 71, 73, §365.6; C75, 77, 79, 81, §400.6]

83 Acts, ch 186, §10103, 10201; 86 Acts, ch 1138, §3; 88 Acts, ch 1058, §1; 97 Acts, ch 162, §3