



COUNCIL POLICY C-FD05

Recognition of Volunteer Fire Fighters

Prepared By: Fire Services

Council Approval Date:

Effective Date:

Council Resolution No.: N/A

References: N/A

Previous Revision Date: October 25, 2005 (FD 005)

Function: Personnel

LAS Review Date: June 30, 2015

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to provide the standards of recognition for the efforts and commitment of volunteer fire fighters who serve Parkland County.

POLICY STATEMENT

Parkland County recognizes that it is the commitment of volunteer fire fighters who staff Parkland County fire Departments/districts that makes Parkland County Fire Services a success. Accordingly, Parkland County shall demonstrate their appreciation to volunteer fire fighters, their families, and their employers, for the service and support they provide.

SCOPE

The policy applies to all Volunteer fire services that are either under the administration of Parkland County (i.e., Parkland Village, Tomahawk and Acheson), or those that have entered into an agreement with Parkland County to provide fire services (i.e., Devon, Stony Plain, Wabamun, Seba Beach, and Yellowhead).

MANAGEMENT RESPONSIBILITIES

The Fire Chief is responsible to ensure fire fighters, spouses, and employers receive the appropriate recognition each year, and continue to monitor and evaluate this policy.

STANDARDS

1. In order to effectively recognize the services of volunteer fire fighters from all seven fire districts in Parkland County, three program initiatives will be implemented. All initiatives will take place in an around Volunteer Recognition Week, normally scheduled annually for the end of April throughout the year as appropriate.

The program will include:

a. **Program Initiative # 1: Newspaper Recognition**

- i. Recognition in the Stony Plain Reporter will consist of a full color advertorial.
- ii. The advertorial will highlight each of the seven departments fire district, including their activities, fire fighters, training requirements and photographs.

- iii. Also included would be a message from the Mayor and Council as well as a few sentences about the personal value of becoming a **volunteer** fire fighter.

b. Program Initiative # 2: Spousal Recognition

- i. Parkland County recognizes the importance of the family unit in supporting its volunteer fire fighters in serving the public. Accordingly, the County will recognize the spouses of fire fighters by hosting an evening to show appreciation for their support and understanding. evening with light refreshments and an informational/ motivational speaker. Potential topics include: Critical Incident Stress Awareness, Balancing Work and Home Life, Health and Wellness, etc.

c. Program Initiative # 3: Employer Appreciation

- i. A volunteer fire fighting system would not be possible without the support and cooperation of employers who allow fire fighters to take time away from work to provide this valuable community service. The County would like to recognize those employers by sending each a certificate of appreciation.
- ii. It will be left to the discretion of each fire fighter to determine whether their employer should be recognized with a certificate. At the beginning of the year, all fire fighters would receive a letter requesting the contact information of their employer for the purpose of allowing Parkland County to show their appreciation. The letter would emphasize their ability to volunteer as a fire fighter is enhanced as a result of the support and cooperation of their employer.

2. All initiatives will take place in and around Volunteer Recognition Week, normally scheduled annually for the end of April. The program will run in and around the month of April for the following reasons:

- a. To coincide with Volunteer Recognition Week.
- b. To avoid losing the County's message in the clutter of ads run during Fire Prevention Week.
- c. To take advantage of the opportunity to receive unpaid coverage during Fire Prevention Week.