

ORDINANCE NO. _____

AN ORDINANCE REVISING THE CODE OF THE CITY OF FORT WORTH (2015), AS AMENDED, TO ADD SECTION 13-24.1, “FIRE EMS APPOINTEES,” AND PROVIDE THE AUTHORITY TO THE FIRE CHIEF TO APPOINT UP TO TWO PERSONS TO THE CLASSIFICATION OF DEPUTY EMS OFFICER, AND TO AMEND SECTION 13-25 TO MAKE CONFORMING CHANGES; PROVIDING THAT THIS ORDINANCE SHALL BE CUMULATIVE OF ALL PRIOR ORDINANCE AND REPEAL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES; PROVIDING A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the City of Fort Worth has an existing Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) with the Fort Worth Professional Firefighters Association, IAFF Local 440, expiring September 30, 2026; and

WHEREAS, the City also has a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Local 440 that amends specific provisions of the CBA to facilitate certain incoming emergency medical services (EMS) employees being civil service personnel; and

WHEREAS, individuals within a civil service system are generally subject to promotion based on the results of testing, but certain limited provision is made to allow for direct appointments in certain classifications (ranks); and

WHEREAS, as amended by the MOU, the CBA provides that the Fire Chief can appoint up to two persons to the classification of Deputy EMS Officer; and

WHEREAS, the Code of the City of Fort Worth (2015) (“City Code”) does not currently provide for the appointment of Deputy EMS Officer positions; and

WHEREAS, in its current form, Section 13-25 of the City Code provides that all fire personnel in the Fire Department, other than the Chief and identified appointees, are selected in accordance with civil service laws and rules; and

WHEREAS, revisions are needed to the City Code to account for the appointment of Deputy EMS Officers and to update a reference to state law, aligning the City Code with the CBA and improving efficient operation of the department.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FORT WORTH, TEXAS THAT:

SECTION 1.

Chapter 13, "Fire Prevention and Protection," of the Code of City of Fort Worth (2015), as amended, is revised to update Article II, "Fire Department," and add Section 13-24.1, "Fire EMS Appointees" to provide as follows:

§ 13-24.1 FIRE EMS APPOINTEES.

(a) The fire chief shall have the authority to select and appoint up to two persons to the classification of Deputy EMS Officer.

(b) Each person appointed under this section shall serve at the pleasure of the fire chief. Eligibility for appointment of and the protections afforded to appointees hereunder shall be as set forth in the Collective Bargaining Agreement.

SECTION 2.

Chapter 13, "Fire Prevention and Protection," of the Code of City of Fort Worth (2015), as amended, is revised to amend Section 13-25 to add a reference to Section 13-24.1 and update a reference to state law, with the revised Section 13-25 to read as follows:

§ 13-25 MEMBERS TO BE SELECTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH CIVIL SERVICE REGULATIONS; EXCEPTION OF CHIEF; APPOINTMENT OF ADDITIONAL FIREFIGHTERS AND OFFICERS IN TIMES OF EMERGENCY.

The members of the fire department, other than the fire chief and the appointees provided for in § 13-24 and § 13-24.1, shall be selected in accordance with Chapter 143 of the Texas Local Government Code, Revised Civil Statutes, Article 1269m, as amended and in accordance with such rules and regulations as the civil service commission may prescribe; provided that, in case of an emergency, the city manager or the fire chief may appoint additional firefighters and officers for temporary service, who will not be considered as regular employees of the department. Each member of the fire department shall be issued a warrant of appointment as a commission, according to the rules and regulations of the city and state law and shall, before entering into service, subscribe to an oath of office.

SECTION 3.

This ordinance shall be cumulative of all provisions of previous ordinances and of the Code of the City of Fort Worth, Texas (2015), as amended, except where the provisions of this ordinance are in direct conflict with conflicting provisions of a previous ordinance; such provisions are hereby repealed and this ordinance shall be controlling.

SECTION 4.

It is hereby declared to be the intention of the City Council that the sections, paragraphs, sentences, clauses and phrases of these ordinances are severable, and if any phrase, clause, sentence, paragraph or section of this ordinance shall be declared unconstitutional by the valid judgment or decree of any court of competent jurisdiction, such unconstitutionality shall not affect any of the remaining phrases, clauses, sentences, paragraphs and sections of this ordinance, since the same would have been enacted by the City Council without the incorporation in this ordinance of any such unconstitutional phrase, clause, sentence, paragraph or section.

SECTION 5.

This ordinance shall be effective June 28, 2025, and it is so ordained.

APPROVED AS TO
FORM AND LEGALITY:

ATTEST:

Christopher A. Troutt, Asst. City Attorney

Jannette S. Goodall, City Secretary

ADOPTED: June 24, 2025

EFFECTIVE: June 28, 2025