

Chapter 9

FIRE PREVENTION AND PROTECTION

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ARTICLE I. IN GENERAL.

Section 9.1 Department Established.

There is hereby established the Fire Department of the City of Coolidge. The head of such department shall be the Fire Chief who shall be appointed in accordance with the provisions of the city charter and shall have such qualifications as the Mayor and Council may establish.

Section 9.2 Departmental Functions.

The department shall at all times comply with the requirements of O.C.G.A. §25-3-23 as amended from time to time.

- a. The fire department shall:
 - 1. provide fire and other emergency and non-emergency services in accordance with the standards specified by the Georgia Fire Fighters Standards and Training Council and as directed by the Mayor and City Council of the City of Coolidge;
 - 2. provide fire protection twenty-four hours a day, three hundred and sixty five days a year;
 - 3. be responsible for fire protection in the city limits of the City of Coolidge, a map of the city to be posted in the fire station as approved by and designated by the Mayor and the City Council; and
 - 4. be staffed with a sufficient number of full time, part time, or volunteer fire fighters who have successfully completed basic fire fighter training as specified by the Georgia Fire Fighters Standards and Training Council.

- b. The fire department shall possess the following items, approved equipment and protective clothing:
 - 1. a minimum of one fully equipped, operable pumper with the capacity of at least seven hundred and fifty GPM at one hundred and fifty PSI and a tank capacity of a minimum of two hundred and fifty gallons; provided, however, that previously approved fire apparatus which does not meet such minimum standards may be used in lieu of minimum required pumper until replaced by the City;
 - 2. a minimum of equipment, appliances, adapters, and accessories necessary to perform, carry out the duties and responsibilities of the fire department as set forth in O.C.G.A. § 25-3-1 and 25-3-2 as approved by the Georgia Fire Fighters Standards and Training Council;

3. a minimum of two approved self contained breathing apparatus for each pumping apparatus as approved by the Georgia Fire Fighters Standards and Training Council;
4. a minimum issue of sufficient personnel protective clothing to permit each member to perform safely the duties of a fire fighter.
5. Such other materials and equipment as determined by the Mayor and Council.

c. The City of Coolidge shall purchase and maintain sufficient insurance coverage for each member of the fire department to pay claims for injuries sustained in route to, during or returning from fire calls or other emergencies, disasters and scheduled training sessions. Any City of Coolidge volunteer firefighter shall be included within the definition of "employee" under O.C.G.A. § 34-9-1(2) for the purposes of workers compensation coverage.

Section 9.3 **Fire Chief.**

a. The Fire Chief shall be appointed by the City Manager. The Chief may be an employee of the City or a volunteer.

b. Compensation and duties of Chief:

1. The Mayor and Council may set the salary for the Chief of the fire department provided the Chief is not a volunteer.
2. The Chief of the fire department shall have at all times the general superintendents, control and command of all officers, apparatus, members and property of the fire department, subject to such regulations as shall be described by existing or future ordinances. He shall establish such rules and regulations as may be deemed necessary for the proper management of the fire department, subject to the approval of the Mayor and Council. He shall cause to be examined periodically the condition of the engine house, apparatus, and other property of the department, and shall in his reports to the Mayor and Council report the condition thereof. If any repairs shall be required at any time, it shall be the duty of the Fire Chief at once to make a report of the same to the Mayor and Council. He shall approve all bills against the department before they are forwarded to the city clerk. He shall purchase all necessary supplies and implements for the department under the direction of the Mayor and Council, and shall make a full and complete report of the activities of the fire department to the Mayor and Council at such times as may be required by the Mayor and Council. He shall see to the proper and speedy extinguishment of fires which endanger property in the city and in the case of such fire he shall have supreme and absolute command of the fire fighters, all personnel connected with the

department, and the entire apparatus and property that may be employed for the extinguishment of fire. The members and apparatus at headquarters shall at all times be under the direction and control of the Fire Chief.

Section 9.4 **Composition of Department.**

a. The fire department shall consist of a Chief and an assistant Chief and such number of fire fighters as the Mayor and Council may determine necessary.

b. Fire fighters shall at all times night and day be subject to be duty and prepared at a moments notice to respond to all alarms of fire. They shall faithfully abide by all orders and rules prescribed by the Chief of the fire department.

Section 9.5 **County Wide Fire Department.**

Notwithstanding anything contained in this Chapter 9, should Thomas County create a county-wide fire department including fire protection with the corporate limits of the City of Coolidge, the Mayor and Council may elect not to create a City fire department. The Chief of Thomas County Fire Department shall be authorized to enforce the Standard Fire Protection Code of the State of Georgia as authorized by Section 9.11 of Article II of this Chapter 9.

Section 9.6 **Fire Hydrants; Obstructing; Opening.**

a. It shall be unlawful for any person to obstruct any fire hydrant in the city without first notifying the fire department in writing and obtaining the consent of such department.

b. It shall be unlawful for any person to open any fire hydrant, or remove the nuts from the opening, or to have in his possession any wrench, with the intent or for the purpose of opening any fire hydrant. However, nothing in this section shall be so construed as to interfere with the water superintendent's inspecting and opening them in the discharge of his duties, or any firemen under the direction of the chief of the fire department at a fire or parade, or at practice.

Section 9.7 **Damaging Fire Apparatus.**

It shall be unlawful for any person to willfully and knowingly injure or damage, in any way, or by any means whatever, any hose, hook, ladder, reel or vehicle, or any other implement, material or apparatus of any kind belonging to, connected with or used by the fire department in this city, as a part of its machinery, material or equipment for extinguishing fires.

Section 9.8 **Entering Vicinity of Fire.**

It shall not be lawful for any person except firemen, city councilmen, the police force, the

owners of property, their agents and the agents of insurance companies to go within the immediate vicinity of any fire, without being ordered there by the officer in command of the fire department.

Section 9.9 **Bulk Storage of Certain Explosives Prohibited.**

Within the City limits, the bulk storage of liquified petroleum, gas, explosives, and blasting agents is prohibited. Exceptions may be made for industrial consumers upon approval by city council.

Sections 9.10 **Reserved.**

ARTICLE II. FIRE PREVENTION CODE.

Section 9.11 Enforcement.

The Chief of the Coolidge fire department shall enforce the Standard Fire Prevention Code adopted by the State of Georgia pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 8-2-25 as amended from time to time in and for the City.

Section 9.12 - 9.15 Reserved.

ARTICLE III. BURNING AND SETTING OF FIRES.

Section 9.16 Open Burning.

It shall be unlawful to burn wood, paper, leaves, grass, or any other cover materials, trash, refuse or any combustible materials within the city without obtaining a permit from the fire department. Construction and demolition debris will not be permitted to be burned. This includes but is not limited to treated lumber, plywood, OSB board, pallets, cardboard, siding, sheetrock, insulation, shingles, baskets, paint cans, carpet, wiring, foam board and any other items of like kind and nature.

Section 9.17 Issuance of Burning Permit, Conditions and Restrictions.

A permit shall be issued in discretion of the Chief of the fire department and in accordance with the following guidelines and conditions:

- a. The fire shall be on the premises owned, rented or otherwise under control and care of the individual obtaining the permit;
- b. No burning shall be done when the wind is blowing;
- c. Materials to be burned shall be racked in piles or cleared ground or a privately owned paved area shall not be closer than seven times the diameter of the pile to any building, fence, structure, uncleared ground or property line or within 50 feet of any building or structure; however, a fire may be kindled and maintained as close as 15 feet to a building or structure if the fire is contained in an approved waste burner.
- d. The larger area of ground covered must be confined by a plowed fire break or a cleared border not less than six feet in width;
- e. No rubber or other materials that will create an offensive odor shall be burned;
- f. The burning shall be under the constant supervision of sufficient adults who shall have connected garden hoses or other approved fire extinguishing appliances at hand adequate to extinguish the fire in time;
- g. No person shall initiate or allow to be initiated or maintained a fire before 10:00 a.m. or later than one hour before sunset. All burning shall be stopped by sundown and ashes thoroughly wet down, extinguished or covered with earth to prevent rekindling;
- h. In receiving a burning permit from the city, the person signing the permit accepts full responsibility for any damage that may result from its use.
- i. The person receiving permit produces evidence of a permit to burn from the Georgia Forestry Commission.

j. The fire shall be constantly attended by a responsible person, and any person kindling a fire shall ensure that there is an adequate water supply available and/or adequate fire extinguishing equipment readily available to control or extinguish the fire.

k. No burning shall occur on any paved street or sidewalk.

Section 9.18 **Regulation of Burning in Heating Apparatus.**

It is not the intent of this Article to regulate the burning of wood, coal or other combustible materials used in home or building heating apparatus such as stoves or fireplaces located within permit structures.

Sections 9.19-9.25 **Reserved.**