



# COUNTY OF DINWIDDIE

## Division of Fire and EMS

DENNIS HALE  
Division Chief

DENICE MARRS  
Communications Manager

13910 Courthouse Road  
P.O. Drawer 70  
Dinwiddie, Virginia 23841  
(804) 469-5388  
Fax 804-469-7663  
[www.dinwiddieva.us](http://www.dinwiddieva.us)

TONY WILLIAMS  
Fire Marshal

CINDY TIMKO  
Program Support Specialist  
Privacy Officer

Date: October 19, 2021

To: Dinwiddie County Board of Supervisors

From: Dennis Hale, Chief of Fire & EMS

Subject: Amending Chapter 10, Code of the County of Dinwiddie, Fire Prevention and Protection by adding Article VI. Dinwiddie County Fire & EMS Department

### **BACKGROUND**

Dinwiddie County's Fire & EMS system has a long history of coordination and cooperation amongst the various agencies that make up the system. For many years, the fire & EMS system within Dinwiddie County was made up of all volunteer agencies. Beginning in 1991, those agencies began to be supplemented with part time EMS staff. In 1994, the county hired its first full time EMS staff, formed its own EMS agency and began providing service as Dinwiddie County Public Safety-EMS Division. The county also hired a Director/Fire Marshal during this time. The county expanded EMS service over the next 10 years, until in 2004 the county reorganized and formed the Division of Public Safety which included fire, EMS, E911/Emergency Communications, Emergency Management and Animal control and hired a Division Chief of Public Safety. This Division later was renamed to the Division of Fire & EMS and the Division Chiefs title was changed to the Chief of Fire & EMS. In 2017, the division expanded again when the county hired its first Firefighter/Medics and began cross staffing both fire & EMS units.

As the system has grown in complexity and size, the coordination and integration of all facets of the system has become more critical to providing appropriate service to the citizens of Dinwiddie County. While the system has functioned well, it currently does not have clear delineations of responsibilities, duties and authorities of key components, which potentially could lead to future issues within the system.

In order to alleviate those potential issues, the proposed ordinance would do the following:

- 1) Formally recognize Dinwiddie County Fire & EMS as a county department and outline its responsibilities
- 2) Formally recognize the volunteer fire & EMS companies as critical public safety components and clearly delineate the integration and coordination of the entire fire & EMS system
- 3) Formally recognize the Chief of Fire & EMS position as lead for the fire & EMS department and outline their responsibilities
- 4) Formally delineate the responsibilities of the volunteer fire & EMS companies and their respective volunteer chiefs.

“To Excel in the Delivery of Emergency and Non-Emergency Services”

- 5) Formally states that all personnel, career and volunteer, shall comply with all regulations, directives, policies and procedures of the Department and clearly delineates the authorities for enforcement.
- 6) Formally recognizes and delineates the duties and responsibilities of the Dinwiddie Fire & Rescue Association

The proposed advertised ordinance was jointly crafted and reviewed by the Chief of Fire & EMS and staff, representatives from the Dinwiddie County Fire & Rescue Association and legal counsel.

### **LAST BOARD ACTION**

The Board had an informational presentation by the Chief of Fire & EMS and legal counsel at the December 2020 regular meeting and were presented the proposed ordinance additions at the September 7, 2021 workshop meeting for review and comment.

### **REQUESTED ACTION**

Request a motion to approve an ordinance to amend the Code of the County of Dinwiddie, 1985, as amended, by amending Chapter 10, Fire Prevention and Protection by adding , Article VI. Dinwiddie County Fire and EMS Department.