



**THE ONEONTA MUNICIPAL CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION**

**ANNOUNCES AN OPEN COMPETITIVE EXAMINATION FOR THE POSITION OF:**

**FIRE CHIEF: EXAM #67077**

**DATE OF WRITTEN EXAMINATION:** January 20, 2018

**APPLICATION FILING DEADLINE:** Applications must be postmarked or received no later than 4:00pm on December 29, 2017. Applications are available on our website, [www.oneonta.ny.us/personnel](http://www.oneonta.ny.us/personnel) or in person at our office located at 258 Main Street, Oneonta. All applications must be original documents. We do not accept faxed, electronic or photocopied applications.

**ALTERNATE TEST DATE POLICY:** See attached.

**FILING FEE:** A \$25.00 non-refundable application fee, or an application fee waiver, for each examination for which you apply must be submitted with your application. Please send a personal check, certified bank check or money order payable to the City of Oneonta. Write the examination number(s) and the applicant's name on the check, money order, etc. *Cash will not be accepted.*

**VACANCIES:** The eligible list established as a result of this examination will be used to fill vacancies which occur within the City of Oneonta Fire Department.

**SALARY:** Depending on Qualifications

**RESIDENCE REQUIREMENT:** Candidates must have been legal residents of New York State for at least 1 month immediately preceding the date of the written test. Preference in certification for appointment may be given to candidates who are residents of the City of Oneonta at least 1 month prior to the date of the examination. However, non-residents of the City of Oneonta may be required at the time of appointment to become residents of the City of Oneonta in accordance with conditions authorized by local law and/or ordinance.

**BACKGROUND INVESTIGATION:** Each potential appointee will be the subject of a thorough investigation to help determine character and fitness, and to verify information provided by the applicant. Applicants must authorize access to educational, financial, military, employment, and criminal history records. Such records will be reviewed and evaluated and, if found to be inconsistent with the qualifications for appointment, will result in disqualification. Candidates who receive a satisfactory evaluation on the background investigation and meet all other requirements may be considered for employment.

**NOTE:** The use of a calculator is **prohibited** for this exam.

**DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF THE CLASS:** This is important administrative work involving responsibility for planning and coordinating the activities of and for the condition and efficiency of all firefighting units and all ambulance units of the municipality. The work is performed under administrative direction in accordance with the established policies and objectives permitting considerable exercise of independent judgment in directing the activities of the Fire Department. The work is reviewed through conferences and reports and general supervision is exercised by the City Manager.

**MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS: By the last day of filing, candidates must meet either A, B, or C:**

- A. Graduation from a regionally accredited or New York State registered college or university with a Bachelor's Degree in fire science, criminal justice, business administration, public administration, or a closely related field AND four (4) years of active service in a paid/career fire department, which must have included supervisory or administrative responsibilities relating to the fire service, emergency management, or emergency medical care; or
- B. Graduation from a regionally accredited or New York State registered college or university with an Associate Degree in fire science, criminal justice, business administration, public administration, or a closely related field AND six (6) years of active service in a paid/career fire department, four (4) years of which must have included supervisory or administrative responsibilities relating to the fire service, emergency management or emergency medical care; or
- C. Completion of eight (8) years of active service in a paid/career fire department, at least four (4) years of which must have included supervisory or administrative responsibilities relating to the fire service, emergency management, or emergency medical care.

**SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS: By the last day of filing, candidates must meet both A and B:**

- A. Possession of a valid New York State Class D driver license or a valid driver license equivalent to a New York State Class D driver license at the time of appointment. The license must be maintained for the duration of employment.
- B. Possession of certification as, at minimum, a New York State Emergency Medical Technician (EMT-B), although preference in hiring will be given to candidates who possess certification as an Advanced Emergency Medical Technician (AEMT-P). The certification must be maintained for the duration of employment. If the appointee does not possess an AEMT-P Certification at the time of appointment, he or she must obtain the AEMT-P Certification within two years of appointment as a Fire Chief.

**SUBJECTS OF EXAMINATION:** This examination will be a written test designed to test for knowledge, skills, and/or abilities in the following areas:

**1. Administrative supervision.** These questions test for knowledge of the principles and practices involved in directing the activities of a large subordinate staff, including subordinate supervisors. Questions relate to the personal interactions between an upper level supervisor and his/her subordinate supervisors in the accomplishment of objectives. These questions cover such areas as assigning work to and coordinating the activities of several units, establishing and guiding staff development programs, evaluating the

performance of subordinate supervisors, and maintaining relationships with other organizational sections.

**2. Educating and interacting with the public.** These questions test for knowledge of techniques used to interact effectively with individuals and/or community groups, to educate or inform them about topics of concern, to publicize or clarify agency programs or policies, to negotiate conflicts or resolve complaints, and to represent one's agency or program in a manner in keeping with good public relations practices. Questions may also cover interacting with others in cooperative efforts of public outreach or service.

**3. Fire administration job simulation exercise.** This job simulation exercise tests for the ability to develop and maintain fire department programs and activities. The questions will be based on a simulated set of administrative issues that a Chief Officer may be asked to analyze and respond to in a working day. The questions cover such areas as organizational relationships, planning, staffing, managing resources, budgeting, public relations, rules and regulations, and political and social concerns impacting the fire service.

**4. Fire emergency job simulation exercise.** This job simulation exercise tests for the ability to manage an emergency incident. The emphasis is on command-level actions and decisions in handling the incident from start to finish. The questions will cover such areas as principles and tactics of firefighting, accountability at a fire scene, hazardous materials, cause investigation, emergency medical care, community relations, and the incident command system, including interacting with other agencies and the media.

**5. Preparing written material.** These questions test for the ability to present information clearly and accurately, and to organize paragraphs logically and comprehensibly. For some questions, you will be given information in two or three sentences followed by four restatements of the information. You must then choose the best version. For other questions, you will be given paragraphs with their sentences out of order. You must then choose, from four suggestions, the best order for the sentences.

**TEST GUIDE:** A Guide for the Written Test for Fire Chief/Assistant Fire Chief is available at the New York State website: [www.cs.ny.gov/testing/localtestguides.cfm](http://www.cs.ny.gov/testing/localtestguides.cfm) . Candidates not having access to a computer or the internet may request copy of the test guide from the municipal civil service office conducting this examination using the contact information found elsewhere on this announcement.

**RELIGIOUS AND MILITARY MEMBERS ACCOMMODATION:** Applicants whose religious beliefs or military service prevent their taking examinations on the scheduled date and candidates who are called to military service after filing an application should send requests for an alternate test date to the City of Oneonta Civil Service/ Personnel Office as soon as possible before the test date. If you apply for an examination during the filing period, but are on active military duty on the date the examination is scheduled, you may request a military make-up examination. Please contact the Personnel Department for more information. If you are on active duty or discharged after the filing period has begun, you may apply for the examination up to ten (10) days before the test date.

**DISABLED PERSONS:** Disabled candidates who require special accommodations to take the test should indicate the need for special arrangements with their application. Please contact the Personnel Department for more information.

**SECTION 23.2 STATEMENT:** This examination will be prepared and rated in accordance with section 23-2 of the Civil Service Law. The provisions of the New York State Civil Service Laws, Rules and Regulations dealing with the preparation and rating of examinations will apply to this examination.

**VETERAN'S CREDIT:** Veterans or disabled veterans who are eligible for additional credit must submit an application for veteran's credit with their application for examination or at any time between the dates of their application for examination and the date of the establishment of the resulting eligible list. Applications for veteran's credit are available from this office. Veteran's credits can only be added to a passing score on the examination. Effective January 1, 1998, the State Constitution was amended to permit a candidate currently in the armed forces to apply for and be conditionally granted veteran's credit in examinations. Any candidate who applies for such credit must provide proof of military status to receive the conditional credit. No credit may be granted after the establishment of the list. It is the responsibility of the candidate to provide appropriate documentary proof indicating that the service was in time of war, as defined in Section 85 of Civil Service Law, and that the candidate received an honorable discharge or was released under honorable conditions in order to be certified at a score including veteran's credits. **Application for Veteran's Credits are available at the Personnel / Civil Service Office.**

**CROSS-FILING FOR CANDIDATES APPLYING TO TAKE MULTIPLE EXAMINATIONS SCHEDULED FOR THE SAME DAY:** If you have applied to take a written test announced by either one or several local jurisdictions (county, town, city) scheduled to be held on the same test date as this written test, you must notify each of the local jurisdictions no later than three (3) weeks before the test date, so they can make arrangements for taking all tests at one site. All examinations for positions in State government will be held at a State examination center. You can find the cross-filing form on our website and may either submit with your application or up to **three weeks** before the date of the examination.

**APPLICATION FEE:** An application fee is required for each separately numbered examination for which you apply. The required fee must accompany your application. Send personal check, certified bank check, money order payable to the City of Oneonta. Write the examination number(s) and the applicant's name on the check, money order, etc. Cash will be NOT be accepted. Applicants who do not submit the required fee or whose personal checks are returned for insufficient funds will be considered disqualified from taking the exam. If your application is disapproved, the fee will not be refunded. You should carefully review the announced minimum qualifications and any residence requirements and apply only for those examinations for which you clearly qualify.

**APPLICATION FEE WAIVER:** A waiver of the application fee will be allowed if you are unemployed and primarily responsible for the support of a household. In addition, a waiver of the application fee will be allowed if you are determined eligible for Medicaid, or receiving Supplemental Security Income payments, or Public Assistance (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families/Family assistance or Safety Net Assistance) or are certified Job

Training Partnership Act/Workforce Investment Act eligible through a State or local social service agency. All claims for application fee waiver are subject to verification. If you can verify eligibility for application fee waiver, complete a "Request for Application Fee Waiver and Certification" form and submit it with your application by the close of business on the application deadline as listed on the examination announcement. This form can be obtained at the Personnel/Civil Service Office.

**ADMISSION NOTICES:** Candidates will receive admission letters indicating the date, time and location their exam is scheduled. If you have not received a notice to appear for the examination three (3) days before the test date, call (607) 432-0670 Civil Service/Personnel office. It is the responsibility of the candidate to notify the Civil Service/Personnel Office of any change in name or address. No attempt will be made to locate candidates who have moved.

**ADDITIONAL CREDIT FOR CHILDREN OF FIREFIGHTERS AND POLICE OFFICERS KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY:** In conformance with section 85-a of the Civil Service Law, children of firefighters and police officers killed in the line of duty shall be entitled to receive an additional ten points in a competitive examination for original appointment in the same municipality in which his or her parent has served. If you are qualified to participate in this examination and are a child of a firefighter or police officer killed in the line of duty in this municipality, please inform this office of this matter when you submit your application for examination. A candidate claiming such credit has a minimum of two months from the application deadline to provide the necessary documentation to verify additional credit eligibility. However, no credit may be added after the eligible list has been established.

**GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS AND INFORMATION:**

1. Falsification of any part of the "Application for Employment" will result in disqualification.
2. Applicants must answer every question on the application form and make sure that the application is complete in all respects. Incomplete applications will be disapproved.
3. Candidates who wish to take more than one examination must complete the "Application for Employment" for each examination. If you are cross-filing for another examination to be held on the same date, please indicate this on the application and specify the examination title and number, and the jurisdiction offering the other examination.
4. Appointments from an eligible list must be made from the top three candidates willing to accept appointment. The duration of an eligible list may be fixed for a minimum period of one (1) year and a maximum period of four (4) years.
5. It is the responsibility of the candidate to notify the City of Oneonta Personnel/Civil Service Department of any change in address. No attempt will be made to locate candidates who have moved.

## **CITY OF ONEONTA ALTERNATE TEST DATE POLICY**

The Oneonta Municipal Civil Service Commission is dedicated to providing the largest base of qualified applicants for employment within its jurisdiction. The Oneonta Civil Service Commission has found that some applicants have been unable to take Civil Service examinations because of commitments that fall on or over the dates designated for the taking of these examinations.

The Oneonta Civil Service Commission has decided to establish an alternate test date policy. This policy will allow applicants, who meet a certain criteria, to take the Civil Service examination on a date other than the scheduled date.

The criteria for being eligible to take an exam on an alternate date shall be as follows:

1. A death in the immediate family or the household in which the candidate resides within the week immediately preceding the announced written test date. Immediate family shall include the spouse, domestic partner, children, siblings, parents and grandparents of the candidate or of his or her spouse.
2. Religious beliefs that preclude a candidate from taking an examination on the announced date.
3. Military duty.
4. A conflict with a previously scheduled commitment to participate as a member of a ceremonial party, such as a wedding, baptism, bar mitzvah or graduation, or as a member of the immediate family or household of the individual for whom the ceremony is being held.
5. A conflict with a professional or educational examination. Examples of professional examinations include the Certified Public Accountant or Professional Engineer examination. Examples of educational examination include the Scholastic Aptitude Test and Graduate Record Examination.
6. A conflict with a previously scheduled vacation, professional conference or retreat for which a significant non-refundable deposit was made prior to the date the examination announcement was issued.
7. A conflict with a court ordered appearance.
8. Hospital confinement, medical emergency or health problem of the candidate or member of the immediate family or household in which candidate resides, if documented by attending physician.
9. Emergency weather conditions, verified by the local public safety agency, that result in the closing of specified roads, highways or independent transportation services, which prevent a candidate from reaching the test center.

**THE CITY OF ONEONTA IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER WITH A COMMITMENT TO  
WORKFORCE DIVERSIFICATION.**

**ONEONTA MUNICIPAL CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION  
DATED: December 6, 2017**