

**COUNTY OF BERGEN
BOROUGH OF PARAMUS
ORDINANCE 2025-29**

**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 47 OF THE CODE OF
THE BOROUGH OF PARAMUS TITLED "FIRE DEPARTMENT" AND
REPLACING SECTIONS 47-1 THROUGH 47-43.**

SECTION 1

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Paramus that Chapter 47 of the Code of the Borough of Paramus is hereby repealed and replaced with the following:

Chapter 47

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Part 1 General Provisions

ARTICLE I

Establishment and Organization

- § 47-1. Continuation of Department.
- § 47-2. Membership.
- § 47-3. Uniformed force.
- § 47-4. Qualifications for membership.
- § 47-5. Membership application; approval.
- § 47-6. Membership roll; identification.
- § 47-7. Mechanics.
- § 47-8. Membership classifications.
- § 47-9. Composition of companies.
- § 47-10. Disbandment of companies.

ARTICLE II

Board of Fire Officers

- § 47-11. Membership; meetings; organization; powers.
- § 47-12. Rules and regulations.
- § 47-13. Records to be kept.
- § 47-14. Secretary.

ARTICLE III

Elections

- § 47-15. Department Chief, Assistant Chief, Deputy Chief and Battalion Chief(s).
- § 47-16. Company officers.

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ARTICLE IV

Department Chief, Assistant Chief, Deputy Chief and Battalion Chief(s)

- § 47-17. Supervision of Department.
- § 47-18. Control of fires.
- § 47-19. Monthly report.
- § 47-20. Police authority of commanding officers.

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Fire and Drill Service

- § 47-21. Response to alarms.
- § 47-22. Drills.
- § 47-23. Scope of drills and training.
- § 47-24. Records to be kept.
- § 47-25. Attendance required; records.
- § 47-26. Exempt firefighter certificates.

ARTICLE VI

Miscellaneous Provisions

- § 47-27. Driving apparatus restricted; emergencies.
- § 47-28. Unauthorized repairs; emergencies.
- § 47-29. Entrance into firehouses; use of apparatus.
- § 47-30. Use of apparatus outside Borough limits.
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- § 47-32. Hazardous material incidents.

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Suspension or Expulsion

- § 47-33. Disobedience.
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- § 47-35. Additional allowance.
- § 47-35.1. Annual review of stipend.

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- § 47-36. Construal of payments.
- § 47-37. Yearly clothing allowance.
- § 47-37.1. Yearly clothing allowance following probation.
- § 47-38. Verification of attendance.
- § 47-39. Execution of waivers.
- § 47-40. When effective; expiration; payments.
- § 47-41. Biannual report by Chief.

Part 3
Intermunicipal Mutual Aid

ARTICLE IX
Intermunicipal Mutual Aid Fire Emergency Aid Systems

- § 47-42. Preamble.
- § 47-43. Participation.

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FIRE DEPARTMENT

§ 47-

Part 1 General Provisions

**ARTICLE I
Establishment and Organization**

§ 47-1. Continuation of Department.

The Volunteer Fire Department of the Borough as heretofore created and established is hereby continued.

§ 47-2. Membership.

The members of the Volunteer Fire Department shall consist of a Fire Commissioner, Department Chief, Assistant Chief, Deputy Chief, Battalion Chief(s) and such other men as are hereinafter provided for.

§ 47-3. Uniformed force.

The uniformed force of the Volunteer Fire Department shall consist of a Department Chief, Assistant Chief, Deputy Chief, Battalion Chief(s) and as many other officers and members as are or may be elected and approved by the Mayor and Council.

§ 47-4. Qualifications for membership.

No applicant shall be eligible to become a member of any unit of the Volunteer Fire Department of the Borough of Paramus unless such person shall possess the following qualifications. Such person shall:

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- A. Be at least 18 years of age.
- B. Be a citizen of the United States or you must be legally present in the United States, and able to provide a passport, I-94 card, I-797 form, your employment authorization document or other government issued documents proving your legal presence in the United States.
- C. Be a resident of the Borough for not less than one year; provided, however, that if the applicant, having the other qualifications listed in this section, shall have been an active fire fighter in another New Jersey municipality at the time of his removal from such municipality to the Borough, he shall be eligible at once for membership in the Volunteer Fire Department without having been a resident of the Borough for one year. Such residence requirement may also be waived in the case of a former resident of the Borough who had been a member in good standing of any unit of the Paramus Volunteer Fire Department during the period of such former residence, upon application by such person when he again takes up residence in the Borough.
- D. Satisfactorily complete a physical fitness performance test approved by the Board of Fire Officers.
- E. Be physically fit to perform the duties of a firefighter, said fitness to be evidenced by a certificate to that effect, made by a practicing physician of the State of New Jersey approved by the Board of Fire Officers.
- F. Be subject to a criminal and motor vehicle record check.

§ 47-5. Membership application; approval.

- A. The applicant prescribed in § 47-4A, B and C and seeking to join the Volunteer Fire Department shall make application to the company to which he will be assigned.
- B. After application has been made, the applicant will take the physical fitness performance test prescribed in § 47-4D.
- C. Upon satisfactory completion of the physical fitness performance test, the applicant will take the physical examination prescribed in § 47-4E.
- D. After completion of all qualifications prescribed in Subsections B and C of this section, the name of the applicant shall be prescribed to the Board of Fire Officers for approval. After approval by the Board of Fire Officers, the name of the applicant shall be presented to the Mayor and Council for confirmation. No name not approved by the Board of Fire Officers shall be presented to the Mayor and Council.

§ 47-6. Membership roll; identification.

- A. The names of the members shall be written upon the membership roll maintained by the Borough Clerk.
- B. A member shall be given a badge and photo identification card as evidence of membership. The badge and photo identification card shall be surrendered to the Chief when demanded or whenever the member is under charges involving moral turpitude or neglect of duty or, for any cause, shall cease to be an active firefighter.

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§ 47-7. Mechanics.

The Board of Fire Officers shall recommend the appointment of one or more mechanics to the Volunteer Fire Department, who shall be charged with the duty of maintaining the motors, lights and the like of the different apparatuses in good condition and ready for immediate service. Such recommendation shall be referred to the Mayor and Council for confirmation or rejection.

§ 47-8. Membership classifications.

Members shall be divided into eight major classifications, to be as follows:

A. Active member:

Any member who has not attained the age of 65 years and who is physically fit to perform all departmental duties, including answering alarms, actual attendance at fires and drills and other duly fixed duties, shall be deemed an active member.

B. Active life member:

- (1) Any active member, upon attaining the age of 60 years, shall be entitled to become an active life member by submitting a letter of intent to the Board of Fire Officers.
- (2) Any active member, who attains the age of 65 years and does not become a senior limited member, must become an active life member. Any senior limited member failing to be certified by an appointed physician must become an active life member. An active life member shall have all the rights, duties and privileges of an active member, except voting for firematic officers, and this member shall not serve in the capacity of a fire fighter in the answering of alarms or actual attendance at fires or drills, nor shall this member be allowed to ride upon any fire apparatus (except to parades or conventions). Active life members shall be entitled to receive the same compensations as an active member; also, to create a special roster to which these members will be affixed, so that the active roster will not be jeopardized.

C. Limited-service member:

- (1) Active: Any member with 10 years and physically unfit for firematic duty may request to the Board of Fire Officers to be classified as a limited-service member within either of the following two categories to be determined by the active fire fighter's classification at the time of his or her application for limited-service membership.
 - (a) Limited fire fighter: This limited-service member must be physically fit to don turnout gear and perform the roles of safety officer and accountability officer as certified to by a licensed physician of the State of New Jersey. This limited-service member must possess a National Fire Academy safety officer certificate or equivalent certificate recognized by the New Jersey Division of Fire Safety. This limited-service member may not perform any fire suppression duties or don a self-contained breathing apparatus. This member shall be permitted to drive only safety and Chief vehicles. This

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limited-service member shall not be eligible to hold firematic office.

- (b) Limited apparatus operator as certified by a licensed physician of the State of New Jersey. This limited-service member must be an existing apparatus operator and must meet the apparatus operator requirements as outlined in the Department Rules and Regulations. This limited-service member shall not be eligible to hold firematic office.
- (2) Inactive: Any active member who has become physically unfit for firematic duty because of permanent injury, with medical certification, and is capable of performing duties other than at fires or drills shall be known as a "limited-service inactive member." These limited-service inactive members shall have all the rights, duties and privileges of an active member, except that this member shall not serve in the capacity of a fire fighter in the answering of alarms or actual attendance at fires or drills, nor shall this member be allowed to ride upon any fire apparatus (except to parades or conventions). Limited-service inactive members shall be entitled to receive the same compensations as an active member; also, to create a special roster to which these members will be affixed, so that the active roster will not be jeopardized.
- (3) Every limited-service member shall have a physical fitness for duty exam performed by a Borough-appointed physician prior to being accepted into this classification and subsequently at least every two years at the Borough's expense. A member may only continue to serve as a limited-service member if said physician certifies that the member can perform the duties of limited-service member as defined.

D. Out-of-town members:

- (1) An active fire fighter of the Paramus Volunteer Fire Department who establishes residency in another community that directly borders the Borough of Paramus is eligible to remain a member of the Department and have all the rights, duties and privileges of a member living in Paramus. Said members may hold the position of officer in the Department as long as member meets all requirements for the desired position as stated in Rules and Regulations Chapter 3, Article 1. Said members shall be subject to the requirements of § 47-4 of this Part 1 in which event said member may remain in his or her previously assigned company.
- (2) An active fire fighter of the Paramus Volunteer Fire Department who establishes residency in another community within New Jersey but is employed in the Borough of Paramus and available to respond to fires or emergencies during the hours of employment shall be subject to the requirements of § 47-4 of this Part 1 in which event said member may remain in his or her previously assigned company. Said member shall have all the rights, duties and privileges of a member living in Paramus, except the member cannot hold a position of officer within the Department.
- (3) An active fire fighter from a New Jersey municipality that does not directly border Paramus who is employed in the Borough of Paramus and is available to respond to fires or emergencies during the hours of his or her employment. This member shall be subject to the requirements of Section 47-4 and 47-5 of this Article and shall be required to meet all of the standards contained in

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Department Rules and Regulations. Said member shall have all the rights, duties and privileges of a member living in Paramus, except the member may not hold an officer position within the Department.

- (4) Any member who moves from the Borough and is requesting out-of-town status must apply for such status in writing to the Chief of the Department at the time he or she moves from the Borough of Paramus. All requests for out-of-town status as provided hereinabove shall be subject to approval by the Board of Fire Officers.

E. Probationary members:

Any person, upon completion of the requirements of § 47-4 and §47-5, will be classified as a probationary member for a period of not less than one year. During the course of this period, the probationary member will be required to maintain his or her percentage in accordance with the rules and regulations of this Department. The probationary member will also be required to complete and pass the Fire Fighter I and Defensive Driving Course. The probation period may be extended due to the unavailability of schools. Upon successfully completing the above requirements, and after being voted on and accepted by the Board of Fire Officers, the probationary member will then become an active member.

F. Junior fire fighter:

- (1) The Fire Department shall be permitted to maintain a junior fire fighter program. No person shall be eligible to become a junior fire fighter unless such person possesses the following qualifications. Such person shall:
 - (a) Be no less than 16 years of age nor more than 25 years of age.
 - (b) Be a resident of the Borough for not less than one year.
 - (c) Be a citizen of the United States.
 - (d) Be physically fit to perform the duties of a junior fire fighter and be evidenced by a certificate to that effect, made by a practicing physician of the State of New Jersey approved by the Borough.
 - (e) Provide documentation of consent from a parent or legal guardian.
 - (f) Provide a release form signed by a parent or legal guardian to allow for emergency medical treatment.
- (2) All above documentation and proofs shall be forwarded to and maintained by the Secretary of the Board of Fire Officers.
- (3) Junior fire fighters shall make application to the company to which they will be assigned. After application has been made and all documentation has been provided, the applicant will take a physical examination as prescribed in § 47-8F(1)(d) above.
- (4) After the completion of all qualifications prescribed in this subsection, the name of the applicant shall be prescribed to the Board of Fire Officers for approval. Upon approval of the Board of Fire Officers, the name shall be presented to the

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Mayor and Council for confirmation. Any name not approved by the Board of Fire Officers shall not be presented to the Mayor and Council.

- (5) Each company may have a maximum of 10 junior fire fighters on active rolls.
- (6) Junior fire fighters shall not be permitted to operate any Department motor vehicle apparatus.
- (7) Junior fire fighters shall not be eligible for any monetary compensation.
- (8) Junior fire fighters shall be required to follow all rules and regulations of the Fire Department. Any junior fire fighter who violates said rules and regulations may be dismissed.

G. Senior limited member:

- (1) Any member, within six months of reaching the age of 65 years, may request to be classified as a senior limited member within either of the following two categories to be determined by the active fire fighter's classification at the time of his or her application for senior limited membership.
 - (a) Senior limited fire fighter- This senior limited member must be physically fit to don turnout gear and perform the roles of safety officer and accountability officer as certified to by a licensed physician of the State of New Jersey. This senior limited member must possess a National Fire Academy safety officer certificate or equivalent certificate recognized by the New Jersey Division of Fire Safety. This senior limited member may not perform any fire suppression duties or don a self-contained breathing apparatus. This member shall be permitted to drive only safety and Chief vehicles. This senior limited member shall not be eligible to hold firematic office.
 - (b) Senior limited apparatus operator- This senior limited member must be physically fit to don turnout gear and to perform the role of apparatus operator as certified by a licensed physician of the State of New Jersey. This senior limited member must be an existing apparatus operator and must meet the apparatus operator requirements as outlined in the Department Rules and Regulations. This senior limited member shall not be eligible to hold firematic office.
- (2) Every senior limited member shall have a physical fitness for duty exam performed by a Borough-appointed physician prior to being accepted into this classification and subsequently at least every two years at the Borough's expense. A member may only continue to serve as a senior limited member if said physician certifies that the member can perform the duties of senior limited member as defined.
- (3) No person shall serve as a senior limited member if the appointed physician fails to certify that the member can perform the duties of a senior limited member. Any member who is not certified by an appointed physician must become an active life member.

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§ 47-9. Composition of companies.

The fire fighter shall be qualified as active, active and employed in the Borough and out-of-towners and shall be divided into companies each to consist of no more than 50 fire fighters. Each company shall not have more than five out-of-towners on its roll.

§ 47-10. Disbandment of companies.

Companies may be disbanded in the following manner:

- A. Upon the written request to the Mayor and Council of a majority of the duly qualified members of any company, said company may be disbanded by order of the Mayor and Council; or
- B. Should the Mayor and Council consider at any time that the interests of the Borough will be best served by the disbandment of any or all of the fire companies, either for neglect of duty or disobedience of orders or for any other cause or in the interest of economy, they may do so at any regular meeting by a majority vote of the full membership of the Council, 30 days notice having previously been given to the Secretaries of such companies and the members of the Council.

**ARTICLE II
Board of Fire Officers**

§ 47-11. Membership; meetings; organization; powers.

- A. The Department Chief, Assistant Chief, Deputy Chief, Battalion Chief(s), Captains and Lieutenants shall constitute the Board of Fire Officers. The Board shall meet monthly or more frequently for the transaction of Department business. The Department Chief will be the Chairperson, and there will be one vote per company. The Captain of the company which the Department Chief is from will have voting rights; in all other companies, the Chief is the one with voting rights and in his absence, it shall be the senior ranking company officer. The Department Chief shall only vote in case of a tie.
- B. The Board shall have entire and absolute control over the management of the Department and its government when such Department is not on active duty.

§ 47-12. Rules and regulations.

The Board of Fire Officers is hereby authorized, empowered and required from time to time to adopt rules and regulations for the control, management and government of the Department and for the regulation of the proceedings and business of said Board. Said rules and regulations after adoption by the Board shall not become effective and operative until presented and approved by the Mayor.

§ 47-13. Records to be kept.

The Board of Fire Officers shall devise forms or methods of keeping records and shall see that records are kept of all alarms of fire, the methods of fire extinguishment, fire losses, drills, hoses, apparatus, minor equipment, condition of hydrants and starting and inspection of motors.

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§ 47-14. Secretary.

- A. The Board of Fire Officers shall appoint a Secretary to the Board.
- B. The term of said Secretary shall commence on January 1 and expire on December 31 of each year. There shall be paid to the Secretary such compensation as the Council may by ordinance provide.

**ARTICLE III
Elections**

§ 47-15. Department Chief, Assistant Chief, Deputy Chief and Battalion Chief(s).

- A. The Department Chief, Assistant Chief, Deputy Chief and Battalion Chief(s) shall be elected by the active members of the Department for terms of one year. No two chief officers shall be elected from the same company.
- B. The election of the Department Chief, Assistant Chief, Deputy Chief and Battalion Chief(s) shall be held annually on the second Tuesday in December, between the hours of 7:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. at the Borough Hall. The Fire Commissioner or any person appointed by him, who is not a member of a fire company, shall preside and act as judge of election. The judge shall be assisted by one representative of each company to act as inspectors of election. A certificate of elections, signed by said inspectors and the Fire Commissioner, shall qualify and entitle the elected officers to act during the term of said office as herein provided. The Fire Commissioner is to have jurisdiction over all appeals, contests and disputes subject to revisory action of the Mayor and Council.
- C. In the event there is a vacancy in the position of Assistant Chief, Deputy Chief or Battalion Chief, the Department Chief shall fill such vacancy until an election for the position is held.

§ 47-16. Company officers.

- A. Each of the companies of the Department shall choose from their own members a Captain and Lieutenant(s) in such manner and at such times as the Board of Fire Officers may, in its rules and regulations for the government of the Department, provide and prescribe.
- B. Company(s) 1,2,3,4 shall elect an Engine Lieutenant in such a manner as prescribed in § 47-16A.
- C. Company 1 and Company 4 shall elect a Truck Lieutenant in such a manner as prescribed in § 47-16A. Company 2 shall elect a Second Lieutenant in such a manner as prescribed in § 47-16A.
- D. Company 3 shall elect a Special Operations Lieutenant in such a manner as prescribed in § 47-16A.
- E. The Rescue Company shall elect 2 Rescue Lieutenant in such a manner as prescribed

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in § 47-16A.

- F. Any member voting for a firematic officer will be an active firefighter and will have a percentage of 50% or better, based on the preceding twelve-month period. Company Captains will supply a list of eligible members to the Chief of the Department one week prior to any election.
- G. Nominations for company officers, Chief, Captain and Lieutenants shall be held no later than the first monthly firematic meeting in October, first Monday. Elections shall be held at the first monthly firematic meeting in November, first Monday.
- H. In the event there are any vacancies in Company Officers, the Department Chief shall fill such vacancy until an election for the position is held.

ARTICLE IV

Department Chief, Assistant Chief, Deputy Chief and Battalion Chief(s)

§ 47-17. Supervision of Department.

The Chief shall have the general supervision of the Department at all times. Said general supervision by the Chief shall not conflict with such rules and bylaws for the government and management of the Department as may from time to time be adopted by the Board of Fire Officers as herein provided.

§ 47-18. Control of fires.

- A. In all cases of fire, the Department Chief or, in his absence, the Assistant Chief, Deputy Chief or Battalion Chief(s) shall have full power and absolute control and command under authority granted by Title 40A of the New Jersey Statutes Annotated.
- B. When the Chief is absent from a fire, the senior line officer shall assume the duties of the chief officer until the arrival of his superior officer under authority granted by Title 40A of the New Jersey Statutes Annotated.
- C. When the chief officers and line officers are absent from a fire, the first arriving ex-chief shall assume the duties of chief officer until the arrival of a superior officer under authority granted by Title 40A of the New Jersey Statutes Annotated.
- D. In the absence of the all the above, the person having control of the first apparatus arriving at the fire shall assume the duties of Chief officer until the arrival of a superior officer under authority granted by Title 40A of the New Jersey Statutes Annotated.

§ 47-19. Monthly report.

The Chief shall report monthly to the Mayor and Council the condition of the various pieces of apparatus and appurtenances; the number of fires during the month, their location and cause, date of same and loss occasioned thereby; and resignations, elections and expulsions passed upon by the Board of Fire Officers.

§ 47-20. Police authority of commanding officers.

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The Department Chief, Assistant Chief, Deputy Chief, Battalion Chief(s) or line officer in command at any fire are hereby clothed with full and complete police authority and are hereby authorized and directed to require and secure the removal of any and all obstructions from in front of and around fire hydrants and for that purpose are hereby authorized to call upon the head of any of the Borough departments for aid and assistance in securing such removal of obstructions.

**ARTICLE V
Fire and Drill Service**

§ 47-21. Response to alarms.

The companies shall upon receipt of an alarm report immediately to their respective quarters and conduct their respective apparatus to the location of alarm, unless otherwise directed by the Chief or other officer who may be in charge.

§ 47-22. Drills.

- A. The Chief shall call out for drills one or more companies of the Department when and where he deems necessary. Each company, however, shall be drilled and trained not less than once each month.
- B. Any company, officer or member being reported to the Board of Fire Officers for refusal or failure to respond to any such order to drill shall be liable to suspension or expulsion as provided for by the rules and regulations of the Board of Fire Officers.

§ 47-23. Scope of drills and training.

The training division shall arrange the drills and training so that they will include:

- A. The proper and efficient use of all appliances and apparatus.
- B. The quick handling, laying and raising of hoses and handling of streams.
- C. The use of shutoff nozzles, Siamese connections and forcible entry tools.
- D. Salvage work.
- E. Ladder work.
- F. Lifesaving.
- G. Modern methods of fire extinguishment.
- H. Technical rescue and extrication

§ 47-24. Records to be kept.

The Captain of each company shall keep a permanent record of the fire and drill service of each member of his company. A copy of this record shall be submitted to the Board of Fire Officers at the close of each year.

§ 47-25. Attendance required; records.

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A record shall be kept of all attendance of every active member by the company Captain and a report given to the Borough Clerk upon request.

§ 47-26. Exempt firefighter certificates.

An exempt firefighter certificate shall be issued to any member of the Volunteer Fire Department who shall have served seven years in active duty under municipal control as required by law. The certificate shall be signed by the Mayor and Chief of the Volunteer Fire Department and attested to by the Borough Clerk.

**ARTICLE VI
Miscellaneous Provisions**

§ 47-27. Driving apparatus restricted; emergencies.

No member of any company shall drive any department vehicle apparatus except the regularly appointed drivers unless directed to do so by the company officer or one of the Chiefs, and then only in case of emergency.

§ 47-28. Unauthorized repairs; emergencies.

No member of any company shall be permitted to tamper with or to fix or repair any apparatus unless so directed by a chief officer or line officer, and then only in case of an emergency.

§ 47-29. Entrance into firehouses; use of apparatus.

No person shall be allowed to enter any firehouse or handle any apparatus or implements belonging to the Department unless accompanied by an active member of the Department.

§ 47-30. Use of apparatus outside Borough limits.

No apparatus shall be permitted to leave the confines of the Borough in case of a fire in an adjacent or neighboring municipality without the notification to the Fire Commissioner, except where a prior mutual aid agreement has been negotiated.

§ 47-31. Requests for repairs or supplies.

All requests for repairs or supplies for the various companies of the Department shall be presented to the Department Chief for approval. In case any apparatus shall become so disabled that immediate repairs are necessary, the officer of the company operating such apparatus shall immediately report the condition to the Department Chief, who shall have the same repaired in accordance with applicable state and municipal regulations.

§ 47-32. Hazardous material incidents.

A. A "hazardous material incident" is defined as any leak, spill or fire or any potential thereof involving any material which could endanger life, property or the environment, as defined in the Code of Federal Regulations Title 49 100-199, but

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not restricted to the same.

- B. The Department will establish procedures to specifically control hazardous material incidents. A hazardous materials contingency plan will be maintained by the Department.
- C. The Fire Department shall assume command of any hazardous material incident, as defined in Subsection A.

**ARTICLE VII
Suspension or Expulsion**

§ 47-33. Disobedience.

- A. Any officer or member of the Department or any company or companies of the Department who shall refuse or voluntarily neglect to obey or execute any orders from a Fire Officer at any firematic function or who shall violate or willfully neglect or refuse to be controlled, governed or managed by any of the rules and regulations of the Board of Fire Officers that may be adopted from time to time, as herein provided, shall be subject to suspension or expulsion from the Department by the Board of Fire Officers in such manner and upon such hearing or trial as may be prescribed or provided by the rules and regulations of the Board of Fire Officers. The suspension or expulsion of any member shall be subject to the approval of the Mayor and Council.

§ 47-34. Charges involving moral turpitude, neglect of duty or insubordination; appeals.

All charges for offenses involving moral turpitude or neglect of duty or insubordination while on duty at a fire or firematic function that may be preferred against any officer or member of the Department shall be tried and determined by a committee of the Board of Fire Officers consisting of all of the Department Captains, subject, however, to an appeal from such decision to the Board of Fire Officers, chief officers who shall either confirm the action of the Board of Fire Officers committee or order said officer or member restored to active duty.

**Part 2
Expenses and Allowances**

**ARTICLE VIII
General Provisions**

§ 47-35. Additional allowance.

Any member of the Paramus Volunteer Fire Department who shall respond to 40% of the alarms for which the fire company to which he/she is assigned is dispatched during any one calendar month shall be entitled to an additional allowance previously fixed by the Mayor and Council, in the amount equal to \$400 per month effective October 1, 2008. Effective April 1, 2009, the monthly allowance will be equal to \$450 per month. Effective January 1, 2010, the monthly allowance will be equal to \$500 per month. Effective July 1, 2018, the monthly allowance will be equal to \$600 per month. Effective January 1, 2019, the monthly allowance will be equal to \$700 per month. Effective January 1, 2020, the monthly allowance will be equal to \$800 per month. In addition, to be eligible to

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receive the monthly allowance each member must attend a minimum of six (6) Monday-night training sessions each quarter with their company or squad, exclusive of the monthly company meeting night. Should any member be unavailable to attend a training session due to a conflict with their work schedule they will be afforded the opportunity to attend a make-up session to be coordinated with the company or squad Captain or Chief. In addition, any member attending an approved training class at the Bergen County Fire Academy, Bergen County EMS Training Center, or any other official training center will be afforded credit for the monthly training requirement in the month they attend the classes. Advance permission from the company or squad Captain or Chief will be required for members to receive credit for attending outside training classes. The accumulated moneys for each of the three months in each quarter shall be paid to the member at the first pay period for the following month. For example, stipends earned from July 1 to September 30 will be paid on the last Mayor and Council meeting of October; stipends earned from October 1 to December 31 will be paid on the last Mayor and Council meeting of January, etc.

§ 47-35.1. Annual review of stipend.

During the month of January of each succeeding year, the Mayor and Council will review the allowance provisions contained in this Part 2 and make any changes it shall deem necessary.

§ 47-36. Construal of payments.

The payments set forth in § 47-35 above shall constitute reimbursement for various expenses which may be incurred by the members of the Fire Department in the faithful performance of their duties and shall not be considered as salary, nor shall such payments be considered to in any way construe the creating of a paid or partially paid Fire Department within the Borough of Paramus.

§ 47-37. Yearly clothing allowance.

All members of the Paramus Volunteer Fire Department shall continue to, regardless of the number of actual alarms responded to, be entitled to the yearly clothing allowance as is fixed yearly by the Mayor and Council, under the present percentage calculating method for this reimbursement.

§ 47-37.1. Yearly clothing allowance following probation.

Upon satisfactory completion of a member's first year of service, commonly known as the "probation year," the Paramus Fire Department will issue the following items in lieu of the member's first year's clothing allowance: one dress and parade uniform as approved by the Mayor and Council.

- A. This will have no effect on any member who has completed over one year of service in good standing.

§ 47-38. Verification of attendance.

The Chief of the Volunteer Fire Department shall institute a verification procedure for the verification of attendance which shall be approved annually by the governing body. Such procedure shall include but shall not be limited to a requirement that each fire fighter

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personally sign a roster or an approved witnessed absentee roster at the completion of and after each alarm indicating his or her attendance at such alarm, with such signatures to be witnessed by the officer in charge of the respective fire company; each member of the Volunteer Fire Department shall maintain on file a specimen of his/her signature; and the forms utilized in recording the attendance for each call shall be subject to the random and periodic audit under the direction of the Borough Administrator; and that each fire fighter that responds to a call with a company other than the one to which he/she is assigned shall be entitled to and granted credit for one alarm, provided that a completed record of attendance form is witnessed by the officer in charge of that call. These verification procedures will affect all members of the Volunteer Fire Department with the exception of the chief officers of the Department who, by virtue of their position within the Department, will not be subject to the verification of each call responded to within the confines of the Borough of Paramus, as many times they are required to remain at a call/alarm for extended periods of time and the verification procedures presently under consideration would not and could not become applicable. Chief officers will be responsible to the Borough Administrator to verify their attendance at each call if their names do not appear on the attendance roster.

§ 47-39. Execution of waivers.

No member of the Volunteer Fire Department shall be entitled to any payment hereunder until he/she shall first have executed a waiver to be prepared under the direction of the office of the Borough Clerk, waiving any and all claim to pension, civil service or employment status of any kind whatsoever as a result of receiving payment under the provisions of this Part 2.

§ 47-40. When effective; expiration; payments.

This Part 2 shall take effect immediately upon passage. Payments shall be calculated and made within the calendar quarter immediately following the preceding quarter as outlined in § 47-35.

§ 47-41. Biannual report by Chief.

The Chief of the Paramus Volunteer Fire Department shall biannually report the effect of such payments on the membership and attendance and such other information as may be directed by the Mayor and Council regarding the operation of the program on the volunteer fire-fighting force and the Volunteer Fire Department as a unit.

**Part 3
Intermunicipal Mutual
Aid**

**ARTICLE IX
Intermunicipal Mutual Aid Fire Emergency Aid Systems**

§ 47-42. Preamble.

The Borough of Paramus Fire Department, and Borough of Paramus Office of Emergency Management have participated and are members of the Central Bergen Mutual Aid Association, the Bergen County Hazardous Materials Association, and other contiguous communities for the purpose of mutual aid assistance between local communities in the

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event of fire, disaster or other emergencies.

§ 47-43. Participation.

The Borough of Paramus shall be and is hereby authorized to participate in the intermunicipal mutual fire and emergency aid system of the Central Bergen Mutual Aid, the Bergen County Hazardous Materials Association and other contiguous communities in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 40A:14-156.1, and the Borough Council shall be and is hereby authorized to enter into agreements to implement this authorization with other local municipalities.

Section 2. If any part of this Ordinance is for any reason held to be invalid, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this Ordinance.

Section 3. All ordinances or parts of ordinances inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed to the extent of such inconsistency.

Section 4. This Ordinance shall take effect on December 1, 2025.

Attest:



Annemarie Krusznis, RMC, CMC
Borough Clerk

Approved:



Christopher DiPiazza, Mayor

Introduced: August 20, 2025

Adopted: September 2, 2025