

**WEST DEPTFORD TOWNSHIP**

**ORDINANCE 2020-25**

**ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WEST DEPTFORD, COUNTY OF GLOUCESTER,  
STATE OF NEW JERSEY AMENDING ORDINANCE 2020-16**

**WHEREAS**, Chapter 26, of the Township Code governs the Township of West Deptford's Fire Department; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township Committee has determined that it is in the interest of the Township to amend Chapter 26 to add Section 26-10, which creates a Junior Firefighter Program; and

**WHEREAS**, to effectuate the smooth transition of the volunteer fire companies into the West Deptford Fire Department, the Township Committee has determined it would be in the interest of the Township to amend Chapter 26 to add Section 26-11, which clarifies the transition from volunteer fire companies to the West Deptford Fire Department;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED** by the Mayor and Township Committee of the Township of West Deptford, County of Gloucester, and the State of New Jersey, as follows:

1. Chapter 26 of the Township Code, Section 26-10, shall be and hereby is amended to read as follows:

**§ 26-10. West Deptford Fire Department Junior Firefighter Program**

The Township of West Deptford hereby establishes the West Deptford Fire Department Junior Firefighters Program, which is to be known as the Junior Firefighters Auxiliary (the "Auxiliary"). The Auxiliary is to serve as a training program for young men and women, aged 14-17, who are interested in serving their community and preparing to become active firefighters upon reaching the age of 18. At age 18, Junior Firefighters are eligible to attend the Firefighter Course to become a full member of the West Deptford Fire Department upon successful completion. The ultimate goal of the Junior Firefighter Program is to provide future members for the West Deptford Fire Department, whether professional or volunteer.

A. Due to the inherent dangers of firefighting, strict rules of conduct and tight procedural standards are to be established by the Fire Administrator in consultation with the Township Administrator and Fire Chiefs. The Fire Administrator will assist in policy development in conjunction with the Fire Chiefs and implementation of such policies and Standard Operating Guidelines necessary to ensure the safety of all members of the Junior Firefighters Program and that the Program operates consistent with its mission. All policies and Standard Operating Guidelines are to be reviewed by the Township Administrator and approved by the Township Committee.

B. Mission

(1) Establish training standards to ensure that all members are thoroughly familiar with established fire operations that are used by the West Deptford Fire Department.

- (2) Provide information and trips to facilities so that members can see first-hand about various fire service careers.
- (3) Participate in District and Council Explorer activities.
- (4) Assist the West Deptford Fire Department in fire prevention, fire inspection, and public assistance programs.
- (5) To be available when activated for individual fire alarms to respond to the West Deptford Fire Department for assignments, to individual apparatus as designated by the policies and Standard Operating Guidelines of the West Deptford Fire Department.
- (6) To provide a program that incorporates the five experience areas of a well-rounded Junior Firefighters Program: career; fitness; citizenship; social and outdoors.

#### C. Organization

- (1) There shall be one (1) Advisor from each Fire Station who shall be appointed by the Fire Administrator in consultation with the Chief of each Station. Other members of the West Deptford Fire Department who are interested in assisting may be appointed as Associate Advisors by the Chief of each Station.
- (2) All Advisors and Associate Advisors must be twenty-one (21) years of age and a member in good standing with the West Deptford Fire Department.
- (3) Juniors who participate in the program are required to maintain a minimum of a "C" or 2.0 grade point average (GPA) in high school. Failure to maintain the required GPA will necessitate a suspension for the following marking period. Juniors shall supply a copy of their current report card to the Advisor at the end of each marking period.
- (4) Juniors must be in good standing with their school, work, and family.
- (5) Junior members are expected to comply with all policies implemented by both the West Deptford Fire Department and the Township of West Deptford.
- (6) No child shall become a member of the Junior Firefighter Program without a prior meeting with his/her parent(s) or guardian to discuss the operation of the West Deptford Fire Department and to answer any concerns of the parent(s) or guardian. A signed permission slip from the Parent(s) or Guardian must be received prior to participating in Department activities.

All Junior Firefighters must have working papers that are supplied from their local high school.

2. Chapter 26 of the Township Code, Section 26-11, shall be and hereby is amended to read as follows:

#### **§ 26-11. Initial Implementation of West Deptford Fire Department**

- A. The Township Administrator, in consultation with the Township Committee, shall set a schedule for the effectuation of the West Deptford Fire Department and implementation of Chapter 26, which may be amended from time to time as deemed advisable by the Township Administrator.
- B. Upon the hiring of the initial Fire Administrator, and other Department Officers, they shall assume the duties set forth in this Chapter 26.
- C. The volunteer fire companies designated by Ord. Nos. 95-6 and 2007-13 shall continue to act as the designated fire companies and perform all duties within their assigned jurisdictions until the West Deptford Fire Department is ready to assume such duties. The Township Administrator, in consultation with the Township Committee and Fire Administrator, shall designate an official transition date (the "Transition Date").
- D. Effective upon on the Transition Date, the volunteer fire companies shall no longer have any authority to perform firefighting, and all such authority shall be vested in the West Deptford Fire Department.

**BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED** that this Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon final passage and publication as required by law.

**TOWNSHIP OF WEST DEPTFORD**



DENICE DICARLO, Mayor

**ATTEST:**



LEE ANN DEHART, Registered Municipal Clerk

**INTRODUCED** at a meeting of the Township Committee of the Township of West Deptford, held on December 2, 2020

ROLL CALL VOTE				
	AYES	NAYS	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Denice DiCarlo	1			
Megan Kerr	1			
James Mehaffey	1			
Adam Reid	1			
James Robinson	1			
<b>TALLY:</b>	5			

**ADOPTED** at a meeting of the Township Committee of the Township of West Deptford,  
held on December 16, 2020.

ROLL CALL VOTE				
	AYES	NAYS	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Denice DiCarlo	1			
Megan Kerr	1			
James Mehaffey	1			
Adam Reid	1			
James Robinson	1			
<b>TALLY:</b>	5			