

Memorandum of Agreement
March 13, 2023

A Memorandum of Agreement between the City of Bonifay Fire Department and the Bonifay City Council providing for the appointment and dismissal of the Fire Chief and the organization and administration of the fire department.

Appointment of the Fire Chief

The Fire Chief shall be appointed by the City Council and the members of the Fire Department whereby both bodies have affirmed the appointment with a majority vote. When a fire chief vacancy arises, the fire department shall conduct a balloted vote of its membership to nominate a fire chief. The nomination shall be forwarded to the City Council to be confirmed or rejected at its next regular or special meeting. Should the City Council fail to confirm the nomination, the members of the fire department shall hold subsequent elections until a suitable nomination is reached. Until a fire chief is confirmed by the City Council, the highest-ranking officer of the Fire Department shall serve as Interim Fire Chief.

Termination of the Fire Chief

The Fire Chief shall be removed from office by the City Council and the members of the Fire Department by majority vote of both bodies. Either body may initiate the process with a simple majority vote. Should the vote fail on either side, the fire chief shall remain in office.

The City Council may remove the Fire Chief without the consent of the firefighters only if the fire chief has been convicted of a felony or ethics violation. The City Council may suspend the Fire Chief during any criminal or ethics violation until prosecution or dismissal of the case. During the suspension, the highest-ranking officer of the Fire Department shall serve as Acting Fire Chief.

Emergency Appointment

Should the Fire Department cease to have an adequate membership of five or more firefighters to provide for a Fire Chief and other officers, the City Council may appoint an Interim Fire Chief to organize the department. The Interim Fire Chief shall serve for a period of up to six months, at which time the firefighters and City Council must vote for and confirm a permanent Fire Chief.

Powers of the Fire Chief

The Fire Chief shall be the chief executive officer of the Fire Department and shall report directly to the City Council. The Fire Chief shall have ultimate say in all matters of recruiting firefighters, appointing officers, writing and enforcing internal policies and procedures, and submitting an annual budget to the City Council. The Fire Chief may designate officers, investigators, inspectors, engineers, instructors, dispatchers, and other positions as the need may arise to meet the growing needs of the area served by the Fire Department.

Alterations to This Document

This agreement may be altered, changed, or dissolved by majority vote of both parties at any time.

Confirmed this 13th day of March, 2023

Travis Cook, Mayor

Larry Cook, Fire Chief

Rickey Callahan, City Clerk