



REQUEST FOR COUNCIL ACTION

AGENDA DATE: November 10, 2025

AGENDA ITEM: Consider appointing four applicants to the position of Firefighter Trainee with the Grand Rapids Fire Department and approve creating an eligibility roster for Firefighter Trainee.

PREPARED BY: Chery Pierzina, Human Resources Officer

BACKGROUND:

With recent retirements over the last several months at the Grand Rapids Fire Department, Human Resources was authorized to begin the process of creating a new eligibility roster for Firefighter Trainee.

The position was posted, and we feel very fortunate that we received a good response to our advertisement and had strong applicants. Following the advertisement of the position, orientation and testing followed, which narrowed the candidate pool down to six applicants.

The Interview Committee consisting of Travis Cole, Shawn Graeber, Bruce Baird, Lance Kuschel, Will Richter, Chad Troumbly, Karl Gaalaas, Matt Arford, and observed by Chery Pierzina, Human Resources, recommend appointing the following applicants to the position of Firefighter Trainee, beginning January 1, 2026, with a 2026 rate of pay of pay to be set by City Council at a later date, and creating an eligibility roster for the following fifth applicant (alphabetical order):

Firefighter Trainee

Austin Jaeger
John Kinzer
Owen Linder
Riley O'Brien

Eligibility Roster

Brandon Snell

REQUESTED COUNCIL ACTION:

Make a motion to (1) appoint individuals listed above to the position of Firefighter Trainee, beginning January 1, 2026, with a 2026 rate of pay to be set by City Council at a later date, (2) create an Eligibility Roster and add individual listed above to the roster.