



Executive Summary

City Council Business Meeting

AGENDA ITEM-NEW BUSINESS: Hiring Fire Fighters
PREPARED BY: Jacob Kolander, City Administrator
RECOMMENDED ACTION: Approval

Overview:

The City of Maple Plain has completed the employment application, testing, and background verification processes for two firefighter candidates: Anthony Post and Joshua Liska. Both individuals have met the city's employment standards and are being presented for council approval. However, their qualifications differ in terms of firefighting certifications.

Candidate Summaries

Anthony Post

Education & Background:

B.S. in Political Science & Business Management from Florida State University

FAA-certified private pilot with instrument rating

Owner of Groundspeed Management; former Director of Government Affairs at Smart-Fill Management Group

Certifications:

Does not currently hold Emergency Medical Responder (EMR), Firefighter I, or Firefighter II certifications

Assessment:

Strong leadership and civic engagement background

May require additional training to meet operational readiness standards for firefighting duties

Joshua Liska

Education & Certifications:

Certified in Firefighter I & II, EMT, ARFF, Hazmat Awareness & Operations, BLS
Graduate of the Fire Protection Apprentice Course at Goodfellow AFB

Professional Experience:

Active USMC Reserve Firefighter Technician (MOS 7051)
Production Technician at Range Systems/ATS Targets
Previous roles in construction and retail

Assessment:

Fully certified and trained for emergency response
Ready for immediate deployment in firefighting operations

Recommendation:

The Fire Chief and Fire Officers recommend that the council approve both candidates for hire.

It is recommended that the council approve Joshua Liska for immediate onboarding as a firefighter. In accordance with the City of Maple Plain's employment policy, Joshua will be subject to the city's standard six-month probationary period for new hires.

Anthony Post is recommended for approval contingent upon completion of required firefighting certifications (EMR, Firefighter I & II) prior to active-duty assignment. In accordance with the City's employment policy, Anthony may be hired under a probationary period, during which he must obtain the necessary certifications. His continued employment will be contingent upon successful completion of these requirements within the probationary timeframe.

Administrator Kolander acknowledges the Fire Department's need to recruit additional firefighters. However, with the anticipated fire department merger and the significant cost associated with sending Anthony through EMR/EMT and Firefighter I & II training, the Administrator asks that the Council carefully consider the financial implications of this hire, especially if the merger proceeds within the next six months.