

HFD

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Applicants must pass a written and agility test through the Humboldt Fire Department prior to enrolling in the Tennessee Fire Code Academy. The academy is a 10-week training program.

After successfully completing the academy, they earn Fire Fighter 1 designation. Once FF1 is achieved, the firefighter may choose to complete additional training and obtain Fire Fighter 2 title.

Even if the department had its full accomplishment of positions

filled, Chief Owens said there is a possibility of adding positions with Tyson getting ready to open and other development coming to Humboldt.

The Humboldt Fire Department has a full battery of fire fighting equipment in its arsenal. In their fleet of vehicles there are four pumper trucks, one tanker truck capable of carrying 2,000 gallons of water, a brush truck and a Hazmat trailer with full turnout gear.

The fire department and the city of Humboldt are looking into purchasing a ladder truck. With new industry and development, and more on the horizon, a ladder truck would be a nice addition to the fleet. The city has applied for a grant to help purchase a ladder truck. Another bonus of having a ladder truck would be residents and businesses should get a lower insurance rate on their properties.

Each HFD firefighter is equipped with self-contained breathing apparatus, also known as SCBA. The SCBA tank holds approximately 45 minutes of air for the firefighter. The department can refill the tank

in about five minutes.

A few years ago, Humboldt Fire Department added drones as a new piece of equipment to fight fires. Drones with cameras can be useful by flying over a structure fire, giving the firefighter a bird's eye view. This gives firefighters critical information as to the size of the fire, where it may be located within the structure and if the fire has burned through the roof. This lets firemen know where it is safe and where it is not if they need to get on top of the burning building to fight the fire.

The drones can also be used in search and rescue situations. A couple of years ago, a HFD drone with thermal camera was used to find an elderly man that had wandered off. The drone picked up his heat signature and rescue team quickly responded.

In 1953, the Main Street fire station first opened. In the early days, the department was manned by volunteers. It wasn't until later that it converted to have full-time, paid firemen on the department.

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Fire Chief Chester Owens receives his COVID vaccination.




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