

Jason P. Ferschke



February 17, 2022

Fire Chief Screening Committee
Town of Natick
13 E. Central St
Natick, MA 01760

Dear Members of the Fire Chief Screening Committee,

I would like to formally submit my application for the position of Fire Chief for the Town of Natick. My name is Jason Ferschke and I have been a member of the fire service in Massachusetts since 1996 progressing through the ranks of Volunteer Firefighter to my current position of Full Time Deputy Fire Chief in the Town of Westborough. Since joining the fire service I have obtained my Civil Engineering Bachelors of Science Degree, Paramedic Certification, Masters of Public Administration, Massachusetts Chief Officer Credentialing as well as numerous State and ProBoard Certifications.

I believe that my knowledge, skills, and ability would be an asset to the Town of Natick in serving as your Fire Chief. My leadership skills and experiences with progressive Fire and EMS organizations will help bolster your Fire and EMS Department and meet the demands of the community.

The success of any organization is the ability to meet the demands of both the internal and external stake holders. In my current role, I have been afforded several opportunities at putting this into practice and look forward to continuing that work as your Fire Chief.

Enclosed, please find my expanded resume detailing some of the highlights of my career as a professional firefighter. I look forward to the process ahead and demonstrating to the committee that I possess the knowledge, skills, and ability to become your Fire Chief.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'JPF' with a stylized flourish.

Jason P. Ferschke

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jferschke@charter.net



PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Deputy Fire Chief/ Deputy Director of Emergency Management

Westborough Fire Department – June 2007 - Present

Westborough, MA.

- Deputy Fire Chief responsible for leading and managing sixty-one firefighters, officers, and dispatchers. Maintain certification and credentialing as a Paramedic, Hazardous Materials Technician, Fire Prevention Officer I, and Chief Fire Officer. Promoted through the ranks from firefighter, lieutenant, captain, to the first career deputy chief.
- Oversight of department fire and emergency medical operations with approximately 4700 emergency calls per year.
- Manage fire prevention division with direct oversight of permitting, reviewing, and inspection of approximately 1.8 millions square feet of new commercial development. The division in total handled an estimated 2.25 million square feet of permit review and inspection.
- Advanced the department from Insurance Service Organization (ISO) Level 4/4x to ISO Level 2/2x which resulted in approximately ten percent insurance premium savings for commercial properties.
- Provide incident management to 23 cities and towns by maintaining a position on the Fire District 14 District Assistance Team. This chief officer leadership team consists of fire chiefs who assist other communities with leadership positions during large scale emergency incidents.
- Member of International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) Hazardous Materials Committee, which serves as the technical experts to the IAFC with matters concerning policy, incident response, education, training, and legislature around hazardous materials.
- Maintain Professional Membership with International Association of Fire Chiefs, Fire Chiefs Association of Massachusetts and Fire Prevention Association of Massachusetts.
- Procured approximately \$70,000 in grant and mitigation funding in fiscal year 2022. Department wide the total grant procurement in 2021 was \$475,000.00 in funding.
- Achieved expedited permitting and increased customer satisfaction by implementing an on-line platform for permit application and processing while decreasing permit processing time.

- Designed and implemented efficient department wide training program that increased firefighter skills, safety, and knowledge. This program resulted in a one-time savings and an increase in firefighter participation from 40 percent to over 90 percent.
- Spearheaded internal affairs investigations of complaints, misconduct, and policy violations of firefighters, fire officers, and dispatchers.
- Co-manage Public Safety Dispatch Center and the Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP). Westborough is the only fire department in the state that manages a PSAP.
- Facilitated Standard Operating Guidelines (SOG's) development and implementation, which provides regulations for the department's fire, EMS, and dispatch. Responsible for apparatus procurement: appropriation, specification, delivery, and outfitting of all fire apparatus.
- Chairman of the LEPC (Local Emergency Planning Committee) which maintains the Hazardous Materials Plan and the Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan for the town. Assisted in creating the Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP) for the town during the pandemic. Maintain the town's CodeRed Emergency Notification System. Manage the Tier II (hazardous substances) reporting as required by the Community Right to Know Act.

Assistant Team Coordinator/ Hazardous Materials Technician

Massachusetts Hazardous Material Response Team– September 2013 - Present
District 3

- Assistant Team Coordinator (Deputy Chief equivalent) Hazmat District 3 responsible for team of 40 hazardous materials technicians that respond to emergencies across Fire District 7 and Fire District 14 (48 cities and towns). Maintain monthly team training requirements (96 hours per year).

Paramedic

Worcester Emergency Medical Services – April 2006 – June 2019
Worcester, MA.

- Responsible for providing Advanced Life Support to citizens of Shrewsbury and Worcester, MA for a hospital based emergency medical system. Maintained required Medication Assisted Intubation Certification under specialized training waiver through the Office of Emergency Medical Services. Developed and implemented safety response plan for EBOLA incidents as a member of the EBOLA safety team.

Firefighter/ Paramedic

Auburn Fire Department – September 1996 – June 2007

Auburn, MA.

- Firefighter/ Paramedic promoted to the level of Executive Officer (XO) which was responsible for daily operations of the work group in the absence of the shift commander.
- Developed and implemented business plan to increase the level of Emergency Medical Services (EMS) in the town with almost no financial impact on the community. Business plan created an avenue for hiring 8 new firefighter/paramedics, purchasing a second ambulance, and advanced life support equipment.
- Training Coordinator for emergency medical services responsible for delivering training to EMTs and paramedics. Assisted with fire prevention plan reviews and inspections.
- Served 6 years on the union executive board, which achieved an excellent labor management relationship. The positive impacts of this relationship contributed to the hiring of 18 new firefighter/paramedics (doubling the number of employees), the purchase of two ambulances, and obtaining the advanced life support emergency medical services license.

Civil Engineer

E.T.&L. Corp – May 2001 – September 2003

Stow, MA.

- Civil Engineer with independent oversight of various large construction projects. Prepared and reviewed bid plan documents for various projects. Performed duties of Construction Superintendent. Responsible for the oversight and tracking of projects and the related finances.

EDUCATION

Masters of Public Administration – May 2011

Anna Maria College – Worcester, MA

- Concentrations in Municipal Budget Systems and Leadership Skills

Chief Fire Officer - February 2017

Edward J. Collins Jr. Center for Public Management / Massachusetts Firefighting Academy - Stow, MA

- Immersive 14-Week program covering a variety of topics essential for public sector management including human resource management, executive leadership and legal issues, governmental and organizational structures, information management, customer-focused strategic planning, budgets and public finance, community awareness and public education and labor relations.

Bachelors of Science – Civil Engineering – May 2001

Worcester Polytechnic Institute – Worcester, MA

- Concentrations in Environmental, Transportation Engineering, and Construction Project Management.

Paramedic Certificate Program - April 2005

Quinsigamond Community College – Worcester, MA

- Paramedic Certificate Program which concluded with Massachusetts Paramedic Certification, as well as, Advanced Cardiac Life Support & Pediatric Advanced Life Support Certifications.

CERTIFICATIONS

Massachusetts Fire Academy/Pro Board Certifications

- Chief Fire Officer
- Firefighter I/II
- Fire Officer I
- Fire Officer II
- Fire Prevention Officer I
- Hazardous Materials Technician
- Fire Instructor I
- Fire Department Safety Officer

PERSONAL INTERESTS

- Boating & salt water fishing
- Woodworking
- Gardening
- Coaching Youth: Football & Soccer
- School Volunteer
- Ran 3 half-marathons
- Biked 3-150-miles for Multiple Sclerosis
- Climbed 2 – 42 story stair climb in full fire gear for Lung Cancer Awareness