

**AN ORDINANCE TO REVISE THE NAME AND UPDATE THE MISSION OF THE  
RAPID CITY FIRE DEPARTMENT BY AMENDING CHAPTER 2.36 OF THE  
RAPID CITY MUNICIPAL CODE**

WHEREAS, the City of Rapid City has established by ordinance the Fire and Emergency Services Department; and

WHEREAS, the name of the Department was changed when its mission expanded to include emergency medical services in addition to traditional firefighting and fire prevention services; and

WHEREAS, the ordinance also codifies the mission of the Department; and

WHEREAS, the Fire Chief and the members of the Department, along with the general public, commonly refer to the Department as the “Rapid City Fire Department;” and

WHEREAS, the Department has updated its mission statement; and

WHEREAS, the Common Council finds that it is in the best interests of the City to change the name of the Department and update the Municipal Code to reflect the changes in the Department’s mission statement.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the City of Rapid City, that Chapter 2.36 of the Rapid City Municipal Code be and is hereby amended to read in its entirety as follows:

**CHAPTER 2.36: RAPID CITY FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES DEPARTMENT**

Section

- 2.36.010 Department name.
- 2.36.020 Composition and appointment.
- 2.36.030 Authority and responsibility.
- 2.36.040 Chief–Powers and duties.
- 2.36.050 Division of Fire and Life Safety. ~~Bureau of fire prevention.~~
- 2.36.060 Hazardous substance emergency response team.
- 2.36.070 Emergency medical services.

2.36.010 Department name.

The Rapid City Fire and Emergency Services Department, formerly known as the Fire and Emergency Services Department, shall have the authorities and responsibilities to serve the citizens of Rapid City as described in this chapter.

2.36.020 Composition and appointment.

The Rapid City Fire and Emergency Services Department shall consist of 1 Fire Chief and such firefighters, emergency medical service providers and other emergency service specialists and officers as the Common Council may provide, and they shall be appointed as provided by law.

2.36.030 Authority and responsibility.

A. The mission of the Rapid City Fire and Emergency Services Department is Prepare, Prevent, Protect.: ~~The Rapid City Fire and Emergency Services Department exists to provide service to the Rapid City community by preventing and minimizing loss of life, pain and suffering, property loss and environmental damage from fire, natural and man-made disaster and medical emergencies.~~ To accomplish this, the Department shall provide education, prevention and emergency response.

B. The Department's authorities and responsibilities shall be those which allow it to accomplish its mission and shall include, but not be limited to provision of public fire education, prevention and control services; public medical education and emergency medical response; and hazardous substance education, accident prevention and incident mitigation.

2.36.040 Fire Chief—Powers and duties.

A. The Fire Chief shall be responsible for the development of short-range and long-range plans to meet the needs of the community within the areas of responsibility of the Department, the development and implementation of policies and programs to meet the goals and objectives of those plans, the organizational direction and proper conduct of the Department, the enforcement of all laws and regulations pertaining thereto, the provision of information about Department activities to the Mayor and Common Council and the promotion of public relations.

B. At the scene of an emergency within the scope of the Department's activities, the Fire Chief or the Fire Department official in command of the scene shall have the full power of a police officer.

C. In the case of absence of the Fire Chief, any ~~Assistant Chief or other~~ officer placed in command shall have the same powers as the Fire Chief.

2.36.050 Division of Fire and Life Safety. ~~Bureau of fire prevention.~~

A. A Division of Fire and Life Safety ~~Bureau of Fire Prevention~~ is established, to be composed of the Fire Chief of the Department and such other members as may be appointed as hereinafter provided. The Fire Chief of the Department shall appoint an Assistant Division Chief/Fire Marshal to lead and manage the Division of Fire and Life Safety ~~Bureau of Fire Prevention~~ and may detail members of the Department as inspectors as shall from time to time be necessary. It shall be the duty of the members of the Division of Fire and Life Safety ~~Bureau of Fire Prevention~~ to enforce adopted fire and life safety codes and standards and applicable provisions of the ordinances of the city, and to investigate the origin and cause of fires.

B. ~~The m~~Members of the Department as may be appointed by the Mayor are declared to be law enforcement officers of the city and shall be appointed by the Mayor with the approval of the Common Council as provided for other offices of the municipality.

~~C.~~ Any officer so appointed such members shall meet the requirements under state law for training as police officers; however, the officers shall be under the administrative control of the Fire Chief of the Fire and Emergency Services Department.

2.36.060 Hazardous substance emergency response team.

A. As the provision of hazardous substance accident prevention and emergency response is not and probably cannot be provided in a timely fashion by another agency or business, as Department personnel are trained in the prevention and mitigation of chemical emergencies, as chemical emergencies are of a nature requiring quick response, and as the Department can provide this service efficiently without sacrificing its ability to meet the other aspects of its mission, it shall be part of the Department's mission to provide hazardous chemical emergency response.

B. Since education and prevention are the preferred methods of dealing with emergency ~~situations situations~~, it shall further be the mission of the department to provide public education aimed at prevention and recognition of chemical emergencies.

2.36.070 Emergency medical services.

A. As the Department has fire stations placed strategically within the community, as Department personnel are trained in the provision of emergency medical services, as medical emergencies are of a nature requiring the fastest possible response, and as the Department can provide this service efficiently without sacrificing its ability to meet the other aspects of its mission, it shall be part of the Department's mission to provide emergency medical care, either as primary provider or as support to the primary provider.

B. Since education and prevention are the preferred methods of dealing with emergency situations, it shall further be the mission of the department to provide public education aimed at ~~prevention prevention~~ and recognition of traumatic and medical emergencies.

CITY OF RAPID CITY

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Mayor

Attest

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Finance Officer