

**DERIDDER MUNICIPAL FIRE AND POLICE
CIVIL SERVICE BOARD RULES**

RULE I

MEETING OF THE BOARD:

- SECTION 1: The board shall hold one regular meeting within each quarterly period of the calendar year, in the months of January, April, July, and October. The board shall hold such special meetings as may be called by the chairperson or as provided in Act 282 of 1964, herein after referred to as the Civil Service Act (Revised Statute 33:2531 and those that follow).
- SECTION 2: Unless otherwise provided in the notice for such meetings, all meetings shall be held at the DeRidder City Hall Conference Room.
- SECTION 3: Notice of regular meetings shall be given by posting such notice in the city hall or at the building in which the meeting is to be held, not less than five (5) days before the date fixed for such meeting, unless otherwise provided by law. Such notice shall state whether the meeting is regular or special, and shall include the date, time, place, and agenda of the meeting, provided that upon approval of two-thirds of the members present at a meeting of a public body, the public body may take up a matter not on the agenda.
- SECTION 4: Special meetings of the board will be held only upon call of the chairperson, or in such absence the vice-chairperson, or as provided by the Civil Service Act.
- SECTION 5: All board meetings shall be open to the public, except when the board meets in executive session as provided by the Louisiana Open Meetings Law.
- SECTION 6: All board members must be notified not less than five (5) days preceding all regular board meetings. Special meetings may be held upon twenty-four hour notice, as provided by law.
- SECTION 7: Four members of the board must be present to constitute a quorum of the board. Concurring votes of three

members are necessary for decision of all matters before the board.

RULE II

SUBJECT MATTER OF MEETINGS:

SECTION 1: At regular meetings of the board it shall consider all old and new business which may be brought to its attention in the manner hereinafter provided.

SECTION 2: At special meetings the board shall consider only those items of business for which the meeting was called, except by agreement of two-thirds of the board members, other matters may be considered.

RULE III

ORDER OF BUSINESS:

SECTION 1: At regular meetings the order of business shall be as follows:

1. Reading of the minutes
2. Special and general reports
3. Decisions and orders on matters considered at previous hearings and meetings.
4. New business.

SECTION 2: At special meetings the order of business shall be as follows:

1. Reading of minutes
2. Decisions and orders on matters considered at previous hearings and meetings.
3. Hearing of matters previously fixed for the special meeting.

RULE IV

EXECUTIVE SESSIONS:

SECTION 1: The board, if required, will meet in executive session during regular or special meetings, by two-thirds vote

of those present when considering those matters which may be discussed under provisions of the Louisiana Open Meetings Law. Any voting on matters discussed in executive sessions will be conducted only upon return to public meeting.

RULE V

APPLICATION FOR APPEALS AND HEARINGS:

- SECTION 1: Any person authorized to appeal to the board under the provisions of the Civil Service Act may apply for such an appeal by a written notice giving a clear and concise statement of the action complained against, the basis of the appeal, and the relief sought. Application for appeals to the board under the provisions of Section 2561 of the Civil Service Act shall be made only by regular employees in the classified service and shall be limited to matters involving discharge, corrective or disciplinary action and the application shall so state. All other requests for hearings shall set forth the section of the Civil Service Act under which the application is brought and shall contain a statement of the jurisdiction of the board. All applications for appeals and other hearings must be signed by the applicant or his counsel, if any, and must give the full name and post office address of the appellant and of his counsel. Written notice shall be filed with the chairperson of the board or the board official so designated to receive such applications.
- SECTION 2: No appeal shall be effective unless the above stated notice is filed within fifteen (15) days following the action complained against, or where written notice is given of an action to be thereafter effective, within the fifteen (15) days following the date on which such written notice is given.
- SECTION 3: The secretary of the board shall cause the date of filing to be noted on each notice of appeal and shall file said appeal on the appeals docket, giving the said appeal an appropriate title.

RULE VI**PROCEDURE ON APPEALS:** (Revised Statute 33:2561)

- SECTION 1: All hearings on appeals shall be open to the public.
- SECTION 2: Parties shall have the right, but shall not be required, to be represented by counsel. When any party is represented by more than one attorney, only one attorney for any party shall be permitted to examine the same witness.
- SECTION 3: The rules of evidence as applied in civil trials before the courts of this state need not be strictly complied with, but the board shall limit evidence to matters having a reasonable relevance to the issues before the board. The burden of proof, as to the facts, shall be on the appointing authority except in those cases where the employee alleges discrimination based on political or religious beliefs, sex, or race.
- SECTION 4: Parties and witnesses shall be subject to cross-examination as in civil trials. The board looks with favor upon stipulations of undisputed facts. The appointing authority shall be first to present evidence and testimony followed by the evidence and testimony of the appellant. Board members may ask questions of witnesses.
- SECTION 5: The board may, on request of any party or on its own motion, place witnesses other than parties under the rule of the board and thus exclude them from the hearing room.
- SECTION 6: Any party desiring the issuance of a subpoena for the attendance of a witness or the production of books or papers must apply for appropriate order, to the board, in writing at least eight (8) days before the time fixed for the hearing. Such application shall state the purpose of the subpoena and what evidence or testimony is sought by the issuance of the subpoena. A subpoena service fee of \$20.00 will be required for any additional subpoena requested after the first four (4).
- SECTION 7: The written rules, regulations, and procedures of the civil service board and the Civil Service Act will be the basis of all hearings and appeals.

RULE VIIDISMISSAL OF APPEALS:

SECTION 1: If the appellant fails to appear at the place and time fixed for any hearing, his appeal may be dismissed or the board may, in its discretion, continue the case or proceed with the hearing and render its decision upon such evidence as may be adduced at the hearing.

RULE VIIITRANSCRIPTS OF HEARINGS:

SECTION 1: If any party to the hearing desires a permanent transcript of the hearing, the party shall furnish a court reporter for said purpose at their own expense. Where a court reporter is furnished, the first copy of the original of the transcript shall be filed with the board and shall become part of the permanent record of any subsequent appeal. Where no court reporter is furnished, the secretary of the board shall maintain as complete notes as is feasible and the board will issue a written finding of fact.

RULE IXOTHER HEARINGS:

SECTION 1: All other hearings of the board shall be instituted and shall be conducted in accordance with the above and foregoing rules and Civil Service Act in general.

RULE XAPPLICATION FOR ADMISSION TO TEST:

SECTION 1: Test for entry upon promotional and competitive employment list shall be advertised for and administered in accordance with Section 2552 of the Civil Service Act. Test for entrance upon competitive employment list may be given as the needs of the service require as determined by the civil service board. Test for entry upon promotional employment list may be given

as the needs of the service require and shall be given at least one time during each successive period of eighteen months.

SECTION 2: Applications for admission to tests on board approved forms, will be received by those individuals designated by the board at any time before final date for receiving applications. Approved applicants will be notified at least five (5) days in advance of the date fixed for the exam. Individuals designated to receive applications will forward such applications to the board secretary and shall be kept as a permanent record of the board in accordance with Civil Service Act.

SECTION 3: The board shall establish and maintain all employment lists not delegated to the State Examiner pursuant to La. R.S. 33:2551. The board shall maintain competitive employment lists for eighteen (18) months and promotional employment lists for forty-eight (48) months.

SECTION 4: Admission to tests shall be governed by provisions of Section 2553 of the Civil Service Act and the qualification requirements of the classification plan. In the event of a demonstrated need for an eligibility list, the board may waive any requirements in the classification plan in order to establish a qualified pool of applicants for testing. A demonstrated need is established when an active provisional appointment exists in the classification to be tested and it is anticipated that an adequate list cannot be established under existing rules.

SECTION 5: When results of any examination are furnished to the board by the State Examiner, the chairperson shall forthwith call the board for a special meeting for approval thereof. Employment lists shall become effective upon approval of and by a majority of the board and filing of the same by the board with the State Examiner.

RULE XIDISTRIBUTION OF BOARD RULES:

- SECTION 1: One copy of the board rules shall be distributed to each board member, governing body one copy, Police Chief and Fire Chief one copy each, and police and fire station bulletin boards one copy each.
- SECTION 2: A copy of the board rules shall be given on request to an appellant or his counsel prior to a hearing.

RULE XIILEAVES OF ABSENCE

SECTION 1: Leaves of Absence--Police and Fire

- A. Leaves of absence are classified as follows:
1. Leave of absence with pay
 2. Leave of absence without pay
 3. Absence without leave and pay
Absence without leave and pay (AWOL) occurs when an employee does not report to work on his/her assigned work shift and did not receive permission to take time off and is in a non-approved and non-pay status. Any employee who is absent without leave and pay may be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including termination.
- B. Annual Leave
1. Each member of the classified police service shall be entitled to annual leave with full pay in accordance with Table 1.
 2. Each member of the classified fire service shall be entitled to annual leave with full pay in accordance with Table 2 and Table 3.

TABLE 1 ANNUAL LEAVE - POLICE DEPARTMENT	
MONTHS OF CONTINUOUS EMPLOYMENT	ANNUAL LEAVE ACCRUED PER PAY PERIOD
1 month to 12 months	4 hours
13 months to 60 months	5 hours
61 months to 120 months	6 hours
121 months and beyond	6 hours and in each year of service over 10 years, employees shall receive an additional 8 hours of leave for each year of service over 10 years. This additional leave cannot exceed a maximum of 240 hours in any given year.*

*Table 1 Example - Employee A in the police department, after having served 11 years, shall receive 6 hours of annual leave per period and shall receive an additional 8 hours (1 additional year of service over 10 years x 8 hours per year = 8 hours) of annual leave. This same employee, after having served 12 years, shall receive 6 hours of annual leave per period and shall receive an additional 16 hours (2 additional years of service over 10 years x 8 hours per year = 16 hours) of annual leave.

TABLE 2 ANNUAL LEAVE - FIRE DEPARTMENT ANNUAL LEAVE PER YEAR OF SERVICE		
Years of Continuous Service	24-Hour Shift Employees	40-hour Employees
0-10	9 Hours per period (234 Hours per year)	6 Hours per period (156 Hours per year)
11	10 Hours per period (260 Hours per year)	7 Hours per period (182 Hours per year)
12	10 Hours per period (260 Hours per year)	7 Hours per period (182 Hours per year)
13	10 Hours per period (260 Hours per year)	7 Hours per period (182 Hours per year)
14	11 Hours per period (286 Hours per year)	8 Hours per period (208 Hours per year)
15	11 Hours per period (286 Hours per year)	8 Hours per period (208 Hours per year)
16	12 Hours per period (312 Hours per year)	8 Hours per period (208 Hours per year)
17	12 Hours per period (312 Hours per year)	9 Hours per period (234 Hours per year)
18	13 Hours per period (338 Hours per year)	9 Hours per period (234 Hours per year)
19	13 Hours per period (338 Hours per year)	9 Hours per period (234 Hours per year)
20 and after	14 Hours per period (364 Hours per year)	10 Hours per period (260 Hours per year)

3. Fire annual leave (vacation) time earned but not taken at the end of each calendar year will not be in excess of the employee's maximum accrual of annual leave based on the table 3 below. The maximum annual carry-over is applicable, unless the reason for not taking annual leave was due to work restrictions imposed by the city. If restrictions were imposed which will preclude an employee from taking earned annual leave, a written record will be made and approved by the Fire Chief and the City Administrative Office and placed in the employee's file and pay record.

TABLE 3 FIRE DEPARTMENT -MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF ACCRUED ANNUAL LEAVE (VACATION) THAT MAY BE CARRIED OVER BASED ON YEARS OF SERVICE		
Years of Continuous Service	24-Hour Shift Employees	40-hour Employees
0-10	468 hours	312 hours
11	520 hours	364 hours
12	520 hours	364 hours
13	520 hours	364 hours
14	572 hours	416 hours
15	572 hours	416 hours
16	624 hours	416 hours
17	624 hours	468 hours
18	676 hours	468 hours
19	676 hours	468 hours
20 and after	728 hours	520 hours

4. The appointing authority has the right to regulate the time at which any employee is granted annual leave as provided in Revised Statute 33:2557.

C. Sick leave:

1. Police Employees Sick Leave

- a. Each police employee of the classified service shall be entitled to and given, with

full pay, sick leave aggregating not less than fifty-two (52) weeks during a calendar year for any job-related sickness, injury, or incapacity.

- b. In addition to the sick leave provided in Number 1, each member of the classified service shall earn sick leave with full pay in accordance with Table 1.

TABLE 1 - Sick Leave - Police Department
Hours Per Pay Period
4 hours

- c. Any police employee of the classified service who draws full pay during sick leave shall have such pay decreased by the amount of workman's compensation benefits actually received by such employee.
- d. Sick leave is applicable to maternity claims. Maternity leave commences when a doctor certifies that the employee cannot perform the duties of the position as assigned by the appointing authority.

2. Fire Employees Sick Leave

- a. Each fire employee of the classified service shall be entitled to and given, with full pay, sick leave aggregating not less than fifty-two (52) weeks during any calendar year for any sickness or injury or incapacity not brought about by his own negligence or culpable indiscretion. Any fire employee of the classified service who draws such full pay during sick leave shall have such pay decreased by the amount of worker's compensation benefits actually received by such employee.
- b. Negligence is defined as failure to exercise the care that a responsible, prudent person would exercise in like

circumstances.

- c. Culpable Indiscretion is defined as being guilty of an act lacking good judgement or care in behavior.
- d. Diligently Pursue Full Recovery is defined as a steady, earnest and energetic effort to continue to obtain or accomplish full recovery of any illness or injury.
- e. Sick leave shall not be used for absences incurred because of attendance to personal affairs. Any fire employee on sick leave is required to diligently pursue full recovery and any activity which is contrary to this endeavor may be the basis for disciplinary action which could include termination.
- f. Sick Leave is applicable to maternity claims. Maternity leave commences when a doctor certifies that an employee cannot perform the duties of the position as assigned by the appointing authority.

3. Emergency Leave - Fire Employees

- a. Each fire employee of the classified service shall have "Leave of Absence with Pay" for immediate family or personal illness reasons for five (5) workdays per calendar year. Such leave shall not accrue from year to year. If an employee is absent from work on "Leave of Absence with Pay," regardless of hours, it will be considered one (1) workday.

D. Bereavement Leave

- 1. In the event of the death of a member of an employee's immediate family or in the employee's spouse's immediate family as defined in Numbers 4 and 5, the employee shall be entitled to bereavement leave of absence, with pay, which shall not exceed three (3) calendar days, as

circumstances warrant.

2. In the event of the death of a member of an employee's other family members as defined in Number 6, the employee shall be entitled to bereavement leave of absence, with pay, which shall not exceed one (1) calendar day, as circumstances warrant.
3. Such leave of absence with pay may be adjacent to an employee's normal day(s) off; however, attendance at a funeral service shall not be the sole purpose for granting the paid leave of absence.
4. An employee's immediate family shall be defined to include the employee's spouse, mother, father, brother, sister, son, daughter, grandparents, and grandchildren.
5. An employee's spouse's immediate family shall be defined to include the employee's spouse's mother, father, brother, sister, son, daughter, grandparents, and grandchildren.
6. An employee's other family members shall be defined to include the employee's step-mother, step-father, uncle, aunt, niece, and nephew.
7. Bereavement leave shall be granted for the following reasons: 1) for the employee to make final arrangements; 2) for the employee to attend the funeral service or ceremony; 3) for a mourning period immediately before or after the funeral service or ceremony; 4) for a mourning period if no funeral service or ceremony is held.
8. Calendar day shall be defined as a continuous 24-hour period of time from midnight to midnight upon which a work shift may fall.

E. Examination Leave

Each member of the classified service shall be granted leave of absence with pay to take any civil service

examination to which he/she has been approved for admission by the DeRidder Municipal Fire and Police Civil Service Board.

Provisional employees are granted leave of absence with pay to take a municipal fire and police civil service examination for the class that they hold provisionally.

F. Civil Leave

Each member of the classified service shall be granted leave of absence with pay when ordered to jury duty. If an employee is subpoenaed as a witness in any court proceeding, civil service hearing, or in proceedings of other duly authorized public body, or when summoned to appear before a court, public body, board, or commission, such classified employee shall be granted leave of absence with pay for any period of time his/her presence and availability is demanded. If an employee is subpoenaed for departmental business while on duty, the employee shall be allowed time away from his/hers assigned duties in accordance with departmental policies. Civil leave shall not be used for absences incurred because of court attendance relating to personal affairs. Civil leave of absence with pay may be granted in order to participate in emergency or civilian duty in connection with national defense or homeland security.

G. Civil Service Board Attendance

Each departmental member of the civil service board shall be granted leave of absence with pay for the duration of any civil service board meeting which the employee representative attends, or for any time required to assist with civil service examinations, or other official business of the civil service board.

H. Military Leave with Pay

Any member of the classified service shall be authorized to take leave without loss of pay, time, annual leave, or efficiency rating on all days during which he/she is ordered to duty with troops or at field

exercises, or for instruction required by membership of the Officers' Reserve Corps of the Army of the United States, the National Guard of the United States, the Naval Reserve Corps, the Marine Corps Reserve, the Air Force Reserve, the Citizens Military Training Corps, the Coast Guard Reserve, or the Civil Air Patrol, either as officers or enlisted personnel, for a maximum of fifteen (15) days in any one calendar year, as provided by R.S. 42:394.

I. Military Leave without Pay

1. Any member of the classified service, except as provided in number 3, who leaves employment in order to perform voluntary or involuntary service in the uniformed services of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, National Guard, reserve military personnel, members of the National Disaster Medical System as specified in federal law, and other category of persons designated by the President in time of war or national emergency, shall be given any leave due the employee in Sub-section J. Should the employee have used all leave to which he/she is entitled (in Sub-section J), he/she shall be granted military leave without pay until he/she returns to duty.
2. Any such employee may request and shall be granted any unused annual leave or compensatory leave. An employee cannot be required to use such leaves of absence.
3. An employee serving in a provisional appointment who is not a regular and permanent employee shall not be granted military leave without pay. He/she shall be required to resign or be separated from the service.
4. A recruit serving in formal training who has been placed on military leave without pay for thirty (30) days or more shall have his/her formal training interrupted for the duration of the military leave. The employee shall resume his/her formal training the day he/she reports to active duty with his/her respective

department. The time the employee served in his/her formal training prior to the interruption and the time the employee serves in the formal training after it is resumed will be used in calculating the total time served in his/her formal training. The employee must meet the requirements of R.S. 33:2555.1 prior to beginning his/her working test.

5. A probational employee serving in a working test who has been placed on military leave without pay for thirty (30) days or more shall have his/her working test interrupted for the duration of the military leave. The employee shall resume his/her working test the day he/she reports to active duty with his/her respective department. The time the employee served in his/her working test prior to the interruption and the time the employee serves in the working test after it is resumed will be used in calculating the total time served in his/her working test. The employee must meet the requirements of R.S. 33:2555 prior to confirmation as a permanent employee in his/her respective class.
6. An employee who has his/her formal training or working test interrupted due to military leave shall be made whole at the completion of such periods. The employee's records shall reflect the date he/she would have completed his/her formal training or working test had he/she not been on military leave. The employee's seniority date, if required, shall be adjusted to reflect the date he/she would have begun accruing seniority had he/she not been on military leave.
7. The appointing authority shall report military leaves of absence without pay, interruption of formal training and working test, and resuming the formal training and working test to the board within fifteen (15) days of the effective date of action.

J. Personal Leave With and Without Pay

1. Each member of the classified service may be granted personal leave with pay for a maximum of four (4) hours during any regular pay period.
2. Each member of the classified service may be granted personal leave without pay for a maximum of five (5) working days during any twelve-month period when employee has no unused accumulated annual, sick, or other paid leave.
3. Any member of the classified service taking personal time off without applying for same shall be considered as "absent without leave or pay."

K. Emergency Leave Without Pay

Each member of the classified service may be granted emergency leave without pay when no accumulated annual leave has been accrued.

L. Special Leave - Seniority

Special leave of absence, with or without pay, may be granted to a member of the classified service by the appointing authority for a period not to exceed one (1) calendar year where such leave is determined to be in the departmental interest. Notification of the board shall not be required for special leave with pay for a period not to exceed thirty (30) consecutive days. Where special leave of absence may be granted with or without pay for a period greater than thirty (30) consecutive days, the board shall be notified in writing of the complete reasons therefor at least thirty (30) days prior to the effective date of the leave of absence.

Before beginning special leave, the employee shall be required to first exhaust all accumulated annual and compensatory leave. Such leave shall not be granted in lieu of military leave or other leave of absence, as otherwise provided in these rules. However, special leave of absence may be applied in emergency situations in which employees may be called to serve

in a non-military capacity in relation to national defense and homeland security. Under no circumstances shall such special leave be granted for the purpose of engaging in other employment.

M. Leave for Specialized Disaster Service Volunteer

1. Any employee who is a trained disaster volunteer of the American Red Cross may be granted leave from his regular work assignments, with pay, and without loss of seniority, annual leave, sick leave, or earned overtime or compensatory time accumulation, for any period not to exceed fifteen (15) work days in any twelve (12) month period, to participate in specialized disaster relief services for disasters designated at Level III or above in the American Red Cross Regulations and Procedures.
2. Leave may be granted upon written request of the employee to the appointing authority which shall include certification of the employee as a trained American Red Cross disaster volunteer, the nature and location of the disaster, anticipated duration of the leave, nature of services required, certification by an official of the American Red Cross that the employee's services are needed, and the identity and title of the official of the American Red Cross to whom the employee is to report.

N. Administrative Leave with pay

1. The appointing authority may grant administrative leave with pay for periods not to exceed sixty (60) days (for Fire Department employees) when circumstances develop that would warrant the removal of an employee from the department without disadvantage in order for the appointing authority to conduct an investigation concerning the conduct of the employee or as may otherwise be required under department policies and procedures. This period may be extended up to an additional sixty (60) day period with prior approval of the civil service board, when circumstances warrant such extension.

Administrative leave shall be terminated upon the employee being ordered to return to active duty or upon the appointing authority affecting disciplinary action, whichever occurs first.

2. The appointing authority may grant administrative leave with pay for periods not to exceed seventy-five (75) days, inclusive of Saturdays, Sundays and legal holidays (for Police Department employees) when circumstances develop that would warrant the removal of an employee from the department without disadvantage in order for the appointing authority to conduct an investigation concerning the conduct of the employee or as may otherwise be required under department policies and procedures. This period may be not be extended beyond seventy-five (75) days, inclusive of Saturdays, Sundays and legal holidays, except with prior approval of the civil service board, when circumstances warrant such extension. Administrative leave shall be terminated upon the employee being ordered to return to active duty or upon the appointing authority affecting disciplinary action, whichever occurs first.

O. Expiration of Leave

Any employee who fails to report for duty upon the expiration of any authorized leave will be considered to be absent without leave and pay and may be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including termination.

Rule XIII

Incentive Pay:

- A. Each member of the classified service shall be eligible to receive, in accordance with applicable provisions of the pay plan for the city of DeRidder, incentive pay for verifiable education and/or technical training obtained in a field or subject area which is relevant to the employee's position in the DeRidder classified fire and

police service. The appointing authority shall make the determination as to the relevancy of the education and/or technical training. Unless otherwise provided in the pay plan, an employee shall obtain prior approval from the appointing authority of such courses or curricula for which the employee wishes to obtain incentive pay.

- B. The minimum education and/or technical training for which incentive pay may be awarded shall be:

Post-Secondary Education

- * Certificates or Degrees earned based upon not less than 100 clock hours nor more than 300 clock hours.
- * Certifications or Degrees earned based upon clock hours greater than 300.
- * Associate Degrees or higher.

- C. Proof of eligibility for incentive pay shall be demonstrated by an original transcript, diploma, or certificate, as the case may be, issued by a state or nationally recognized institute of higher education, community college, technical institute, or trade school. Such documentation shall be submitted to the appointing authority for approval prior to receiving incentive pay.

- D. The amount of incentive pay, if awarded, shall be determined and established in the pay plan for the fire and police departments by the City of DeRidder, and shall be in addition to any other salary the employee is entitled to receive from the municipality, the state, or any other governmental entity. Incentive pay shall be paid subject to available funds budgeted for such purposes, and may be rescinded by the governing authority if funding is insufficient.

Adopted:	01-14-76
Revised:	01-12-77, 07-09-80, 02-08-84, 12-11-85, 01-10-90, 02-20-91, 07-10-91, 12-08-93, 04-10-96, 05-12-04, 06-08-05, 05-13-09, 03-13-13, 07-14-15, 05-26-21, 10-10-24, 12-18-24