



CITY OF ITHACA

108 East Green Street Ithaca, New York 14850-5690

OFFICE OF HUMAN RESOURCES / CIVIL SERVICE

Telephone: 607 / 274-6539 Fax: 607 / 274-6574 E-mail: hrdept@cityofithaca.org

FIREFIGHTER OPEN-COMPETITIVE EXAM NO. 60052600

Application Fee: **\$15.00 non-refundable fee for Tompkins County Residents.** Fees may be waived and refunds issued pending legislative action in January 2025.

\$50.00 non-refundable fee for all other applicants. .

The fee is waived for City of Ithaca and Town of Ithaca residents.

The fee may also be waived for candidates who are unemployed and primarily responsible for the support of a household, or who are receiving public assistance.

Examination Date: **January 10, 2026**

Application Deadline: **December 4, 2025**

ACCEPTANCE OF APPLICATIONS: Applications must be received by the City of Ithaca Human Resources Department no later than 4:30 PM EST on the last filing date indicated above. Applications must be submitted electronically through our online application program at <https://ithaca-portal.mycivilservice.com>. We do not accept paper applications, faxed applications, e-mailed applications or photocopies of applications.

APPLICATION FEE: Tompkins County (NY) residents must pay a non-refundable \$15.00 application fee at the time of application. All other applicants must pay a non-refundable \$50.00 application fee at the time of application. Application fees must be paid by electronic payment through our online application program.

Be sure to compare your qualifications carefully with the requirements listed on this announcement, including the residency and age requirements. No refunds will be made if your application is disapproved, if you fail to appear for the exam, or if you fail the exam.

APPLICATION FEE WAIVER: The application fee will also be waived for applicants who are unemployed and primarily responsible for the support of a household, eligible for Medicaid, receiving Supplemental Security Income (SSI) payments or Public Assistance (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families/Family Assistance or Safety Net Assistance), or certified as eligible for the Job Training Partnership Act/Workforce Investment Act through a State or local social service agency. To request an application fee waiver, please complete the fee waiver request on the online application form prior to submitting your application. All requests for application fee waivers are subject to verification.

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APPLICATION MATERIALS REQUIRED: A City of Ithaca application, copy of high school transcript or GED, copy of driver license, and application fee or waiver.

VACANCIES: Currently, there are no vacancies in the City of Ithaca Fire Department. The eligible list established as a result of this examination may be used to fill these vacancies and any future vacancies that may occur during the life of the eligible list.

RESIDENCY: There are no residency requirements for this examination. Preference in certification may be given to candidates who are residents of the municipality in which appointment is to be made, provided that the candidate is a resident of such municipality at the time of examination and remains a resident of such municipality continuously thereafter, up to and including the dates of certification and appointment.

SALARY: \$51,855 (2026 non-EMT rate)
\$54,421 (2026 EMT rate)

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF THE CLASS: The work involves responsibility for the combined functions of preventing, controlling and suppressing fires and providing emergency medical services to residents. Firefighters are also responsible for hazardous materials incident response and technical rescue incident response. The work involves driving and operating fire apparatus, as well as a variety of specialized tools and equipment used when responding to emergency incidents. When not responding to emergencies, firefighters are responsible for the routine maintenance, repair and cleaning of equipment, tools, buildings and property. Firefighters may also perform fire code enforcement activities, public education activities, and training. Work is performed under the direct supervision of a superior officer. Does related work as required.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS: Graduation from high school or possession of a high school equivalency diploma.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS:

1. Candidates must obtain certification as a New York State Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) within two years of appointment, and maintain said certification for the duration of employment.
2. Possession of a valid New York State Class D driver license or a valid driver license equivalent to a New York State Class D driver license at the time of appointment and maintenance of said license for the duration of employment.

If you expect to complete the educational requirement within six (6) months of the date of examination, you can be admitted to this examination. If successful on the examination, you will not be certified for appointment until you have submitted proof of completion of the requirements to the Civil Service Commission. Proof must be submitted within eight months of the date of examination. Failure to do so will result in removal of your name from the eligible list.

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS:

1. **AGE:** Candidates must be at least nineteen (19) years of age to be eligible for appointment.

2. **MEDICAL REQUIREMENTS:** Candidates must meet the medical standards prescribed by the City of Ithaca Civil Service Commission. Candidates who are offered employment as Firefighters will be required to pass this job-related medical examination, which verifies that the candidate is medically able to perform the essential duties of a firefighter. Employment offers will be conditional upon the successful completion of the medical examination.

Copies of the medical standards are available from the Office of Human Resources/Civil Service – 108 East Green Street – Ithaca, NY 14850 or hrdept@cityofithaca.org.

BACKGROUND INVESTIGATION: Applicants may be required to undergo a State and national criminal history background investigation, which will include a fingerprint check, to determine suitability for appointment. Failure to meet the standards for the background investigation may result in disqualification.

SCOPE OF THE EXAMINATION: The written examination will cover knowledges, skills and/or abilities in such areas as:

1. **Ability to learn and apply information**

These questions test for the ability to learn new information and apply it to answer questions effectively. Candidates will read information presented in a Training Lesson and then answer questions regarding the information and procedures covered in the Training Lesson. All information needed to answer the questions will be provided in the Training Lesson, and candidates will be able to refer to the Training Lesson when answering the questions. Some of the questions may require candidates to combine information from different portions of what has been learned in the Training Lesson. No prior knowledge of any specific job or subject matter is needed.

2. **Basic arithmetic**

This section requires candidates to use basic arithmetic (add, subtract, multiply, divide) to find a missing value in a table of numbers. Candidates will not need to refer to the Training Lesson or any other section of the test to answer the questions in this section. All information needed to answer each question will be contained in this section. No knowledge of firefighting or any other job is required. Candidates should bring a hand-held battery- or solar-powered calculator for use on this test. Candidates will not be permitted to use the calculator function on their cell phone.

3. **Reading comprehension**

These questions test for the ability to understand written materials (e.g., sentences, passages) and answer questions about the information presented. Candidates will be provided with reading passages, followed by questions related to each passage. Each question will require candidates to demonstrate that they have read and understood the information contained in the passage.

4. **Situational judgment**

This section tests for the ability to identify appropriate and effective responses to work-related challenges. Candidates will be presented with several scenarios that reflect the types of challenges one could encounter in a work environment. They will then be asked to rate the effectiveness of a number of possible responses to each scenario.

A Guide for the Written Test for **Firefighter** is available at the New York State website: <https://www.cs.ny.gov/testing/testguides.cfm>. Candidates not having access to a computer or the internet may request copy of the test guide from the municipal civil service office conducting this examination using the contact information found elsewhere on this announcement.

NOTE: Most Civil Service examinations do not require the use of a quiet, hand-held calculator or slide rule; however, candidates have the option of bringing a battery-operated or solar-powered calculator to the test room unless specifically notified that their use is prohibited. Devices with typewriter keyboards, spell checkers, Personal Digital Assistants, Address Books, Language Translators, Dictionaries, or any similar devices are prohibited. **USE OF CALCULATORS IS RECOMMENDED FOR THIS EXAM.**

RELIGIOUS ACCOMMODATION - CANDIDATES WITH DISABILITIES - MILITARY MEMBERS:

- _____ Applicants whose religious beliefs or military service prevent their taking examinations on the scheduled date and candidates with disabilities who require special accommodations to take the test should indicate the need for special arrangements on their application. Candidates who are called to military service after filing an application should send requests for an alternate test date to the City of Ithaca Human Resources/Civil Service Department before the test date.
- _____ Military Service Members: If you apply for an examination during the filing period but are on active military duty on the date the examination is scheduled, you may request a military makeup examination. Contact the City of Ithaca Human Resources/Civil Service Department for more information. If you are on active duty or discharged after the filing period has begun, you may apply for the examination up to ten days before the test date.

SECTION 23.2 STATEMENT: This examination will be prepared and rated in accordance with Section 23(2) of the Civil Service Law. The provisions of New York State Civil Service Law, Rules and Regulations dealing with the preparation and rating of examinations will apply to this examination.

TIME AND PLACE OF THE EXAMINATION: Approved candidates will be notified by mail regarding the time and place of the examination. If notice of approval or disapproval is not received three (3) days prior to the exam date, please call the City of Ithaca Human Resources/Civil Service Department at (607) 274-6539.

MULTIPLE EXAMINATIONS SCHEDULED FOR THE SAME DAY: If you have applied to take a written test announced by either one or several local jurisdictions (county, town, city) scheduled to be held on the same test date as this written test, you must notify each of the local jurisdictions no later than two weeks before the test date, so they can make arrangements for taking all tests at one test site. All examinations for positions in State government will be held at a State examination center.

VETERAN'S CREDIT: Veterans or disabled veterans who are eligible for additional credit must submit an application for veteran's credit with their application for examination or at any time between the dates of their application for examination and the date of the establishment of the resulting eligible list. Applications for veteran's credit are available from this office. Veteran's credits can only be added to a passing score on the examination.

Effective January 1, 1998, the State Constitution was amended to permit a candidate currently in the armed forces to apply for and be conditionally granted veteran's credit in examinations. Any candidate who applies for such credit must provide proof of military status to receive the conditional credit. No credit may be granted after the establishment of the list. It is the responsibility of the candidate to provide appropriate documentary proof indicating that the service was in time of war, as defined in Section 85 of Civil Service Law, and that the candidate received an honorable discharge or was released under honorable conditions in order to be certified at a score including veteran's credits.

ADDITIONAL CREDIT FOR CHILDREN OF FIREFIGHTERS AND POLICE OFFICERS KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY: In conformance with section 85-a of the Civil Service Law, children of firefighters and police officers killed in the line of duty shall be entitled to receive an additional ten points in a competitive examination for original appointment in the same municipality in which his or her parent has served. If you are qualified to participate in this examination and are a child of a firefighter or police officer killed in the line of duty in this municipality, please inform this office of this matter when you submit your application for examination. A candidate claiming such credit has a minimum of two months from the application deadline to provide the necessary documentation to verify additional credit eligibility. However, no credit may be added after the eligible list has been established.

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS AND INFORMATION

1. Falsification of any part of the "Application for Employment" will result in disqualification.
2. Applicants must answer every question on the application form and make sure that the application is complete in all respects. Incomplete applications will be disapproved.
3. Candidates who wish to take more than one examination must complete the "Application for Employment" for each examination. If you are cross-filing for another examination to be held on the same date, please indicate this on the application and specify the examination title and number, and the jurisdiction offering the other examination.
4. Appointments from an eligible list must be made from the top three candidates willing to accept appointment. The duration of an eligible list may be fixed for a minimum period of one (1) year and a maximum period of four (4) years.
5. It is the responsibility of the candidate to notify the City of Ithaca Human Resources/Civil Service Department of any change in address. No attempt will be made to locate candidates who have moved.

Issued by: City of Ithaca Civil Service Commission
October 30, 2025

The City of Ithaca is committed to Equity and Inclusion. We encourage those with similar values to apply.