



Facts for Applicants

**Volunteer
Firefighting
in Westlock**



Considering becoming a volunteer firefighter?

Thinking about becoming a volunteer firefighter? This fact sheet outlines what the role involves, the commitment required, and the difference you can make in our community. You'll receive specialized training, build new skills, and join a dedicated team that responds when Westlock needs it most.

Alberta relies heavily on volunteer firefighters to protect communities across the province.

- Over 430 fire departments operate across Alberta.
- Approximately 95% are staffed entirely by volunteers.
- The province has more than 10,000 volunteer firefighters—about three times the number of career firefighters.

Westlock Fire Department is a volunteer-based organization supported by full-time leadership.

- Led by a full-time Fire Chief with administrative support.
- Volunteers receive an honorarium to help support their service.
- The department operates:
 - 2 Fire Engines
 - 1 Aerial Platform
 - 1 Rescue Truck
 - 1 Mobile Operations Center
 - 1 Incident Support Unit
 - 1 Chief's Vehicle

The department responds to a wide range of incidents throughout the year, approximately 200 calls annually, including:

- Fires
- Motor vehicle collisions
- Hazardous materials incidents
- Emergency medical responses
- Other community emergencies

New firefighters receive structured training and mentorship before responding to real emergencies.

- Six-month probationary period.



- Includes scheduled training, mentorship, and competency evaluations.
- Volunteers typically commit 2–3 hours per week to training during probation.

Volunteers remain active beyond emergency calls through regular commitments.

- 1–2 hours per month at the fire hall.
- Equipment maintenance and readiness.
- Support for community programs and events.

Volunteer firefighting offers valuable personal and professional growth opportunities.

- Hands-on experience in emergency response.
- Strengthened teamwork, leadership, and communication skills.
- Development in crisis management and decision-making.
- Meaningful contribution to community safety and resilience.

Public education and community outreach are core priorities for the department.

- Junior Firefighter Program
- School tours and public presentations
- Fire safety and prevention campaigns
- PARTY (Preventing Alcohol and Risk-Related Trauma in Youth) program

Active volunteers are supported with modern benefits to help balance service and well-being.

- Free access to Town recreational facilities
- Workers' Compensation coverage
- A benefits package for duty-related needs



More information about the Westlock Fire Department can be found online at www.westlock.ca or by calling 780-349-4444.