



Board Meeting Agenda Abstract

Tuesday, April 21, 2026

Location:

Agenda Item

Recognition - Fire Department New Hires - Badge Pinning - (Jones) - Item 4.B

Item Explanation

The purpose of this agenda item is to introduce six new firefighters hired to fill three new approved positions and three vacancies.

Staff Comments

The FY 2026 Budget authorized three new firefighter positions to increase daily staffing at Fire Station #4. Following the successful 2022 "recruit-to-certification" model, the department selected three non-certified candidates to undergo a rigorous 26-week Fire Academy.

Following an extensive selection process, Aaron Chalkley, Gavin Kinhead, and Collin Worley were hired and enrolled in the Central Carolina Community College Fire Academy. On February 11, 2026, all three successfully graduated as certified North Carolina Firefighters and Emergency Medical Technicians.

Simultaneously, the department filled three additional vacancies by recruiting Adam Gruden, Genevieve Hernandez, and Carter Sams. Gruden and Hernandez were fellow graduates of the CCCC Academy, while Sams, a 2025 Central Carolina Community College Fire Academy graduate was a career firefighter from the City of Sanford.

Following a comprehensive two-week departmental orientation, all six recruits were assigned to their respective shifts in February. This presentation serves to formally introduce these newest members to the Board of Commissioners and the community as they receive their pinned badges—symbolizing their commitment to the "Culture of Excellence" within the Fuquay-Varina Fire Department.

Fiscal Note

No

Recommendation

No Action Required - Presentation Only

ATTACHMENTS