



# THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF IOWA FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR

**IMPORTANT** – For the purposes of this award, the use of the word Firefighter or firefighter officer includes any living, active, full-time, paid, or volunteer CERTIFIED FIREFIGHTER who is also a MEMBER of a municipal (city) or county fire department. This includes Emergency Medical Technicians or those serving in some other capacity in the department.

**Scope:** Americans, especially since the tragic day of September 11, 2001, understand the heroism, bravery and importance of our nation's firefighters and their role in helping to safeguard life and property. The Preamble of the Constitution of The American Legion includes as one of its objectives... "to maintain Law and Order". As concerned citizens and veterans, Legionnaires have always fostered a strong sense of law and order and have upheld the protection of American citizens and the American way of life. They have always held firefighter agencies in the highest regard, and many posts and departments already recognize outstanding firefighters of various jurisdictions who daily serve our communities and frequently lay their lives on the line.

**Purpose:** The purpose of The American Legion Firefighter of the Year Award is to honor a well-rounded firefighter who has exceeded, above and beyond, the duty requirements expected of his/her position and has demonstrated a distinct pattern of community service coupled with professional achievement. Episodes of heroism will, of course, also be included where noted.

**Award Designation:** The American Legion Firefighter of the Year Award will be presented annually at the Department Convention or other suitable American Legion setting, as appropriate. The Post which submits the winning nominee will be notified by The American Legion as expeditiously as possible. The Department winner will receive:

1. \$100 toward expenses to attend the Department Convention
2. Firefighter of the Year Plaque
3. Letter of Commendation signed by the Department Commander and Department Adjutant of The American Legion, Department of Iowa

Department winner will be submitted for The American Legion National Firefighter of the Year.

**Guidelines for Posts:** The Post should submit its nominee's application to The American Legion of Iowa. Applications are to be received not later than November 30 in order to allow adequate judging and notification time prior to the Department Convention and for submission for the National award. Nominations received on November 30, will be judged for presentation at the following Department Convention and National Convention. For example, nominations received on November 30, 2017 will be judged for presentation at the 2018 Department Convention and National Convention. A Post may submit only one nominee per year and their nominee must not have been the previous year Department award winner.

**Eligibility Criteria:** To be eligible for consideration, nominees must meet the following criteria:

1. Be a citizen of the United States.
2. Be a certified, living, active, full-time, paid, or volunteer firefighter.
3. Consideration for a posthumous award will be acceptable only if the nominee's death has occurred after the Post's selection.
4. Be assigned to, or fully recognized by, Municipal (City), County, District, State or Federal firefighter officer.
5. Nominees are not required to be veterans or members of The American Legion.
6. Nominees must reside and be assigned or attached for duty in the State of Iowa.
7. Nominees selected for this award should be available to receive this award at The American Legion Department of Iowa and/or National Convention. If the winning firefighter is a uniformed firefighter, then he/she is requested to appear in full uniform at the Department and/or National Convention at the time of presentation. Non-uniformed winners would be expected to appear in appropriate business attire.
8. Military firefighters are eligible for participation in this award provided they are state firefighter certified.

**Application Packet:** Only one copy of the application packet needs to be submitted to The American Legion of Iowa, Attn: Firefighter of the Year Award, 720 Lyon Street, Des Moines, IA 50309. Application packet for the nominee should include:

1. Application Form - Complete the attached application form and use it as the cover page of the application. This cover page shall not count as part of the maximum 18 pages of service documentation.
2. Photograph - A 5 x 7 official photograph of the nominee.
3. Service Narrative and Supporting Documentation:
  - a. A maximum of 18 one-sided pages 8 1/2x 11 bond paper of service documentation. The first six or seven pages should contain the individual's service narrative. The additional pages may include supporting citations and other documentation to include press articles.
  - b. The firefighter officer must be recommended by his/her Commanding Officer or Supervisor for this award. The commanding officer or supervisor should also state that the firefighter officer, if selected for this award, will be available for its presentation at The American Legion Department and/or National Convention.
  - c. Specific acts of community service, heroism and meritorious performance recognized by his/her firefighter agency should be included and documented.
  - d. Include a copy of the nominee's state or federal certification as a firefighter as well as copies of pertinent training and education certificates as appropriate.
  - e. Community Service - Outstanding service to the community, state or nation by the firefighter, in both on-duty and off-duty activities, should be explained for the past year and may include previous years. Cite awards and/or supporting letters from city, county, and state officials, and letters from The American Legion, or from citizens attesting to and commending the firefighter for his/her community service contributions.

**Judging Guidelines:** Judging guidelines at the Department and National levels will be based on the following criteria, and maximum percentage points will be allocated as follows:

Community Service.....	35 points
Professional Career .....	40 points
Heroism .....	20 points
Letters of Recognition, news clippings, and other substantiating documentation .....	5 points



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Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Sex:  Male  Female

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, ST Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Age \_\_\_\_\_ Marital Status: \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Length of Service as Firefighter: \_\_\_\_\_

Agency Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Agency Director: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Nominee's Supervisor: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Agency Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, ST Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Agency Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Post Submitting Nomination: \_\_\_\_\_

Post Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Post Contact Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Post Contact City, ST Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Post Contact Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Post Commander Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Post Commander Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Post Adjutant Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Post Adjutant Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

All nominations must arrive by **November 30**. Submit one copy of your application packet conforming to all instructions. Failure to use this form may result in the DISQUALIFICATION of your nominee. It should be placed as the COVER SHEET for your packet of materials supporting your candidate. Mail completed application to:

The American Legion of Iowa  
Firefighter of the Year  
720 Lyon Street  
Des Moines, IA 50309