



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How long does the hiring process take?

The hiring process will be six months from the time the entrance exam is given until the start of the academy. During this time, extensive background investigations will be conducted on the applicants.

Do you have lateral transfers or have a modified academy for certified police officers?

The Amarillo Police Department does not accept lateral transfers and we require all applicants chosen to attend a full length academy even if they are currently licensed as a police officer.

How many recruits are usually hired for the academy?

The number of recruits hired will depend on the number of vacancies within the Department. Average academy size is between 20 – 25 recruits.

Will I be paid during the academy?

Amarillo Police Academy Recruits will be paid while attending the academy and are considered City of Amarillo employees.

I was discharged from the military with a dishonorable discharge. Can I apply?

No one will be accepted that was issued a dishonorable discharge, bad conduct or other characterization of bad character.

I was discharged from the military with a general discharge under honorable conditions or uncharacterized. Will I be eligible for the academy?

Each discharge will be reviewed and a decision made on a case by case basis depending on the reason for the discharge.

Does the police department have a policy on tattoos?

Officers may have tattoos but they must be able to be covered up by clothing when on duty.

How long is the police academy?

The police academy is 27 weeks long and you will receive 1088 hours of instruction.

What are the hours of the academy and will I have to live at the police academy?

The academy classes are usually from 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM Monday through Friday, with recruits going home at the end of each day. There will be some days where the recruits will work evening shift hours to enhance training.

Is physical fitness training part of the academy?

Recruits will be required to participate in one-hour of physical fitness each day from 7:00 – 8:00 AM. The fitness program is based on the "Cross-Fit" program and will consist of both cardio and weight training as well as endurance training. This is a very intense program and recruits need to be in good physical condition on the first day of the academy.

Can I apply if I have not received the 12 hours of college credits required with my GED?

Applicants with a GED are required to have completed 12 hours of college credits with a 2.0 GPA prior to the start of the academy

Will I be able to continue going to college while attending the academy?

No. Recruits will not be allowed to attend college or work elsewhere while going to the academy. Upon completion of the 18-month probationary period, an officer may work off-duty jobs and attend college classes.