

Police Officer Q&A

1. What are the requirements to become a police officer for the City of Jacksonville?

The applicant:

- a. must be at least twenty-one (21) years of age, as regulated by the Commission on Law Enforcement Standards and Training (CLEST), but no older than forty-five (45) years of age, as regulated by the Jacksonville Civil Service Commission, at the time of hire;
- b. must not have been found guilty of a felony, even if the charge was later pardoned or expunged;
- c. must not have been found guilty of a domestic violence offense;
- d. must be a United States citizen;
- e. must have a high school diploma or have passed the General Education Development (GED) Test;
- f. possess a valid Arkansas driver's license ;
- g. must pass the Civil Service exam with at least a 70% score;
- h. must pass the Physical Agility Test;
- i. must pass a thorough background investigation;
- j. must be personally interviewed by an interview board;
- k. must meet physical requirements, as described by CLEST;
- l. must possess uncorrected visual acuity of 20/100 or better in each eye, correctable to 20/20 in each eye, and ability to distinguish colors;
- m. must be examined by a licensed psychologist or psychiatrist in the State of Arkansas, and be found competent and be recommended for hire; and
- n. must pass a drug test.

Any further inquires for CLEST requirements can be found at <http://www.clest.org/Pages/default.aspx>

2. What does the Physical Agility Test include?

The Physical Agility Test is comprised of sit-ups, push-ups, and one and one half (1 ½) mile run. Each exercise is timed. Applicants will have one (1) minute to complete twenty-five (25) or more sit-ups, one (1) minute to complete nineteen (19) or more push-ups, and sixteen (16) minutes and fifty-five (55) seconds to complete the one and one half (1 ½) mile run. Failure of one component of the test is failure of the entire test. Candidates will be afforded the opportunity to retest immediately, but must complete the entire test again. It is highly suggested that applicants begin training for this agility test as far in advance as possible.

3. If I am offered a position with the City of Jacksonville as an entry level police officer what training is required?

If you receive a letter of hire, and all conditions have been passed, then you will start the training to become a police officer. A three (3) week orientation will be given for all new hires. The recruit will then be sent to the Arkansas Law Enforcement Training Academy (ALET) in Camden, AR for twelve (12) weeks of training or Black River Technical College – Law Enforcement Training Academy (BRTC-LETA) in Pochahontas, AR for thirteen (13) weeks of training. The recruit will be at the training facility from Sunday evening to Friday afternoon and

will be able to come home on the weekends. The training facilities require recruits to pass a weekly test with a 70% score or above, participate and improve on physical fitness requirements during training, and be able to pass firearm qualifications. Upon completion of training, recruits then are placed with Field Training Officers (FTOs) for twelve (12) weeks of training. Ideally, each recruit is rotated to a new FTO every four (4) weeks and train on both day and night shifts. If the recruit satisfactory completes the twelve (12) week field training then he/she is placed with a supervisor for one (1) week for a “check ride” which will determine if the recruit is ready to go on patrol by themselves.

Further inquires for ALETA requirements can be found at <http://www.clest.org/Pages/default.aspx> or for BRTC-LETA requirements can be found at www.blackrivertech.org/leta

4. How long is the probation period for new officers?

Officers are placed on twelve (12) months probation from the date of hire. During the probation period, the probationary officer is an “at-will” employee and may be terminated with or without cause. At the end of the twelve (12) months the probationary officer is sworn in under the Jacksonville Civil Service Commission.

5. What kind of shifts does your department have?

Jacksonville Police Department patrol officers work twelve (12) hour shifts. Every other weekend the officer is off on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. There are four (4) shifts of officers that rotate from day shift to night shift every three (3) months. Shifts run from 6 am to 6pm and 6 pm to 6am.