**City of Blaine**

**Request for Council Action**

**Meeting Date: May 28, 2024**

**Subject: Amending Section 8 of Blaine’s Civil Service Commission Rules: Lateral Police Officer**

**Department: Prepared By: Chief Rodger Funk**

**Attachments:**

1. None

**Background/Summary:**

Section 8.6, 10.1, 10.3, and 10.4 of the City of Blaine’s Civil Service Commission rules describe hiring Lateral Police Officers. The rules define a Lateral Police Officer as “those persons having at least twenty-four months of continuous experience as a commissioned police officer and who are eligible for certification as officers by the Washington Criminal Justice Standards Training Commission following the completion of an equivalency academy.” The issue with this language is that it precludes certified peace officers who have completed the academy but have less than 24 months of service from being considered separately from entry-level candidates.

The new proposed language is as follows:

**8.6. Lateral Entry Police Officer/Firefighter Examinations**

The Secretary, if deemed in the best interest of the City, may limit examinations for the position of police officer or firefighter to those persons having at least twenty-four months of continuous experience as a commissioned police officer and who are eligible for certification as officers by the Washington Criminal Justice Training Commission following the completion of an equivalency academy; or who have successfully completed a full-time firefighting academy and have at least twenty-four months full-time paid experience in the fire service; or to those persons who are currently certified as peace officers by the Washington State Criminal Justice Training Commission.

**Recommendation:**

Staff recommends that the Civil Service Commission amend Section 8 of its rules, as proposed in the Background/Summary section above.