Department POLICE-INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION

Job Title: Forensic Services Technician (Crime Scene Unit)
Pay Range $32,865.12 - $47,654.40  Starting Salary $32,865.12
Job Type Full-Time

Work Schedule See "Special Instructions to Applicant" below

Location 2509 Princess Anne Road, Virginia Beach

Minimum Requirements Any combination of education (above the high school level) and/or experience equivalent to three years in positions such as evidence technician or related field which provides the required knowledge, skills and abilities; a valid Virginia or North Carolina driver's license (or ability to obtain); successful completion of a police background investigation including polygraph examination; and successful completion of a pre-employment physical examination. Forensic Services employees are required to wear a uniform and adhere to departmental grooming standards.

Duties Individual will perform work in the recognition, collection, documentation, preservation and processing of physical evidence associated with criminal activity under investigation; act as a principal assistant at major crime scenes; process minor crime scenes independently; develop latent finger and palm prints; identify and recover all forms of evidence; document crime scenes, using sketching, measurements, photography and videotaping; prepare reports; and testify in court.

Preferences Strong communication skills; detail orientation and organizational/time management skills are essential. College level coursework in forensic science, biology, chemistry, criminal justice or related area; volunteer or paid work experience in the field of forensic science; familiarity with photography; and computer literacy are desirable.

Requisition Number 5884

Job Open Date 03-04-2014
Job Close Date 03-10-2014

Special Instructions to Applicants Applicants will be considered for the current vacancy and any subsequent vacancies thru December 31, 2013 or until the eligibility list is exhausted.

Forensic Services Technicians work shifts including nights, weekends and holidays. Shift bids are accepted every three months from employees and shift assignments are made based on seniority and the operational needs of the department, with consideration to the employee's bid request. In other words, employees are assigned to the same regular work schedule for three month intervals. Typically, a new employee can expect to spend the first few years of their employment on the evening or midnight shift with days off during the week (rather than the traditional Saturday/Sunday weekend).

The Forensic Unit is staffed by 11 crime scene technicians and coverage must be consistently maintained. For this reason, at times technicians will be required to work on other shifts to fulfill operational needs. When possible, advance notice is provided, but there are periodic situations (about once a month) when a shift change may be required on the day of the request.

Obviously, there are a number of variables that impact operational needs such as employee turnover, annual leave requests, unexpected illness, crime trends, etc. The information provided here is based on past experience in an effort to describe the most likely scenario for a new employee.
Forensic Services Technician is the entry level position. Applicants selected for the Forensic Services Technician position will be eligible for career progression to the Forensic Specialist I position classification (10% pay increase) upon demonstrating competency and proficiency in processing crime scenes independently (typically in about two years). There is an additional career progression opportunity to Forensic Specialist II for those employees who continue their study and training in a specific discipline (bloodstain pattern analysis, digital image enhancement, ballistics, etc.) and are recognized by the court as an expert witness in that discipline.

The following is a listing of "automatic disqualifiers" or concerns that could result in you not being selected for employment. Please give consideration to these factors before applying. This is not an exhaustive listing.

Criminal History
Conviction of any felony or any crime involving moral turpitude (crimes contrary to justice, honesty, or good morals).

Conviction of any Class 1 or Class 2 misdemeanor, excluding traffic violations which are discussed separately, or the Virginia State Law equivalent within the last 5 years.

Traffic Violations
Three or more negative points on a Virginia Operator's License or the equivalent for out of state licenses. ***Points may be negated by attending defensive driving school offered by the Division of Motor Vehicles prior to the interview phase.***

Any conviction of driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol, refusal to take blood or breath test, eluding police, racing, or leaving the scene of an accident within the last 5 years.

Drugs
Any involvement in the sale or distribution of illegal drugs as an adult. Juvenile involvement in the sale or distribution of illegal drugs is an area of concern which will be given careful scrutiny in the context of the full investigation/review.

Any illegal possession of heroin, cocaine, hallucinogens or any other schedule 1 or 2 drug, or any derivative thereof, as defined in the Code of Virginia within the last ten years.

Illegal possession of anabolic steroids within the last 24 months.

Illegal possession of marijuana or a derivative thereof within the last 24 months.

VRS Contribution All full-time employees are required to contribute 5% of annual salary toward their retirement account; in accordance with VRS retirement provisions. This will be handled through a pre-tax payroll deduction.