

The West Branch Police Department is currently accepting applications from anyone interested in serving the West Branch community as a Reserve Police Officer. The Reserve Police Officer position is an unpaid, volunteer position. Reserve Officers are required to commit to working a minimum of 10 hours per month and make themselves available to assist with various community events and activities. Upon the successful completion of the required training, including over 120 hours of departmental training and training mandated by the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy, Reserve Officers will be sworn in as Reserve Police Officers and will have police powers and authority consistent with Iowa Law and Department Policy.

Reserve Officers support the full time Officers of the West Branch Police Department. They participate in activities such as vehicle patrol, foot patrol, security for community events, traffic direction for events and accident scenes, and are available as resources in case of emergency. Reserve Officers are also an integral part of the Police Department's Community Policing efforts. Upon completion of the required training and certifications, Reserve Officers are authorized to carry weapons on duty. Reserve Officers will be provided with badges, uniforms and some additional equipment by the Department. They are, however, required to supply much of their own equipment including, but not limited to, an approved duty handgun, approved holster, handcuffs and duty belt.

The requirements for joining the Reserve Police Force are as follows: Must be a US Citizen, must be 21 years of age at time of appointment, must have a High School Diploma, GED or equivalent, must hold a valid Iowa Driver's License, must undergo a complete background investigation, must pass a physical fitness assessment, must be examined by a physician and meet the physical requirements necessary to fulfill the responsibilities of a Law Enforcement Officer and must submit a completed application packet. Additionally, applicants must be residents of Cedar, Johnson, Muscatine or Washington counties.

Anyone interested in becoming a Reserve Police Officer should forward an application to Mike Horihan, Chief of Police at PO Box 218, West Branch, IA 52358. Applications are available for download on the West Branch City Website at www.westbranchiowa.org or can be picked up during regular business hours at City Hall. If you have any questions about the Reserve Police Force, please contact Officer John K. Hanna at john@westbranchiowa.org or Lead Reserve Officer Todd Thurman at todd_thurman@cargill.com. A short informational session will be held at the West Branch Police Department for anyone interested in learning more about joining the Reserve Police Force. The session is scheduled for April 17, 2012 at 6:30 pm. Please contact Lead Reserve Officer Todd Thurman if you're interested in attending. Attendance at the informational session is encouraged, but not mandatory.