

## Testing:

- After submitting a City of Dalton Employment Application, the applicant must attend a testing session within one month. If not, their application is returned to human resources.
- Applicant testing is conducted weekly on Friday at 8 am at the Police Services Center
- **Written test** – The written test is one of the initial tests all applicants must complete. It consist of 125 multiple choice questions. These questions are largely based on information from inside the testing booklet. There are also sentence structure and word usage questions. There is no study guide available to prepare for the written test. Applicants must score a minimum of 70 on the written test. While some fail the test, approximately 90% of applicants pass.
- **Psychological test** – The psychological test consist of a series of written tests asking various questions aimed at making a psychological evaluation of the applicant’s ability to perform law enforcement duties. The applicant’s only task is to answer the questions truthfully. The test has safeguards in place to identify individuals trying to manipulate the test by answering questions based on their perception of the “correct” answer. The grading of the psychological test is done by an off site, independent company called Psychological Resources. If an applicant fails the psychological test, the application is returned to human resources and the applicant must wait one year before reapplying for a position.
- **Polygraph test** – The polygraph, commonly referred to as a “Lie Detector”, is an important step in the hiring process. It is given fairly early in the hiring process, and accounts for the majority of applicants being returned to human resources. While the polygraph is a time consuming process, we feel it is important because honesty is the foundation to everything a police officer does. The Dalton Police Department, as well as other law enforcement agencies, cannot tolerate dishonesty in any form.
- **Physical Fitness test** – The physical fitness test is designed to measure the overall fitness level of an applicant. The test consist of five events which are dictated through the Cooper Institute in Dallas, Texas:
  1. Vertical Jump (16” or greater) – used to measure leg strength
  2. Sit-ups (29 or more in 1 minute) – used to measure core body strength
  3. 300 meter run (71 seconds or less) – used to measure anaerobic capacity
  4. Push-ups (25 or more with no time limit) – used to measure upper body strength
  5. 1.5 mile run (16:28 or faster) – used to measure aerobic capacity.