

## **UTILITIES DIRECTOR CITY OF FAYETTEVILLE, ARKANSAS**

This is an opportunity to lead and manage a highly regarded Utilities Department in a dynamic city government that values innovation, efficiency, and top-quality management.

The City of Fayetteville is seeking an experienced Utilities Director to lead and direct the City's award-winning Utilities Department. The new Director will be responsible for ensuring that the City Utilities Department supports the department mission and provides a high level of service to citizens of Fayetteville and other outside users of the Department's services.

The Utilities Director is appointed by and reports to the Chief of Staff and is a vital member of the City's Senior Management Team.

Fayetteville is the third-largest city in Arkansas with a current city population of 73,580 and is nestled in the beautiful Ozark Mountains. Fayetteville is located in Northwest Arkansas and the region is centered around the four large cities along the Interstate 540 corridor: Bentonville, Rogers, Springdale, and Fayetteville. The NWA region is home to the headquarters of Walmart, Tyson Foods, and JB Hunt Transport Services. The MSA's population in 2012 was 482,200.

Northwest Arkansas offers amenities that rival many major metropolitan areas, including Crystal Bridges, a world-class museum of American art; expansive and diverse shopping; a minor league baseball team; and a world-class performance theatre. Fayetteville is home to one of the premier Southeastern Conference educational institutions, the University of Arkansas, and its nationally competitive collegiate sports teams. The attractive quality of life of the Northwest Arkansas region is both a result of the fruits of economic development in the region and smart investments in the community vitality of the region.

The City of Fayetteville operates under a stable Mayor-Council form of government. The City Council is composed of eight council members and a Mayor. Two council members are elected in each of Fayetteville's four wards by city voters and are directly responsible to the people. Four council members are elected at one municipal election and four council members at the next municipal election. The term of office for a council member is four years and a council member may serve an unlimited number of terms.

The City of Fayetteville is a full-service local government providing the following internal and external services: Mayor's Administration, City Council, City Attorney, City Prosecutor, City Clerk/Treasurer, Fayetteville District Court, Library, Chief of Staff, Human Resources, Internal Audit, Sustainability & Resilience, Police, Central Dispatch, Fire, Parks & Recreation, Finance & Internal Services, Development Services, Communications & Marketing, Transportation Services, and Utilities.

The total 2014 City budget is \$135.6M and the General Fund budget is \$37.5M. There

are 763.3 FTE City employees.

The Utilities Department is composed of four major program groups: Water & Sewer Operations Division; Wastewater Treatment; Capital Projects; and Parking & Telecommunications. The Utilities Department is an integral component of the City's organization and provides significant service to the City's customers. The Department provides service through 86 City and 37 CH2M Hill/OMI (contract) employees who staff key facilities 365 days a year, 24 hours a day.

All City of Fayetteville positions require the employee to demonstrate leadership competencies by exhibiting appropriate role modeling, and setting proper examples. In addition, all City of Fayetteville positions require the employee to provide good customer service to both internal and external customers, maintain positive and effective working relationships with other City employees (especially members of his/her own team), and have regular and reliable attendance that is non-disruptive.

The City of Fayetteville is in need of a strong leader who is well versed in current public utility industry trends, and who has the skill set and creativity to ensure that the City Utilities Department is at the forefront of municipal utilities in the country.

Required is a person possessing a Bachelor's degree in Engineering or a related field from a four year college or university and six years of progressively responsible experience in the management of water and/or wastewater facilities. Licensed Professional Engineer preferred. A Master's degree in Engineering or a related field with a minimum of five years of progressively responsible experience in the management of water and/or wastewater facilities is preferred. A valid driver's license is also required.

Other key requirements in the ideal candidate for this position include executive level skills, a strong understanding of engineering, a strong understanding of public utility regulations, a solid manager, an understanding of value engineering and an understanding of politics. The ideal candidate will have been director or deputy director of a large public water and wastewater utility, be a good presenter in public meetings, be an effective staff person for the City Council Water and Sewer Committee and be able to speak in layman's terms to a wide host of audiences.

The ideal candidate should possess strong interpersonal skills, be a city-wide team player with other department directors, be out in the field with employees, be an adept problem solver, and be an effective facilitator. The next Utilities Director should be a visionary person looking for new ideas and approaches to the provision of public utilities in the future.

Fayetteville is home to a top research institution in the nation - the University of Arkansas, also known for its successful SEC sports programs. The city offers award-winning schools, state-of-the-art medical facilities, a world-class public library, seventy city parks, three lakes, numerous award-winning natural areas, and miles of trails for walking, running, and biking.

In 2013, Partners for Livable Communities designated Fayetteville in the Top Ten nationally for “America’s Most Livable Communities” for cities under 100,000 population. Fayetteville ranks on several lists as a top city in the nation, including Livability.com’s ranking of Fayetteville as the 63<sup>rd</sup> top livable city in the United States, as well as the 9<sup>th</sup> top college town. Parade Magazine highlighted Fayetteville as one of the most beautiful cities in the nation, and *Southern Living* selected Fayetteville as one of “The South’s Best College Towns” for 2013.

For more information about the City of Fayetteville, please visit our website at [www.accessfayetteville.org](http://www.accessfayetteville.org).

The salary range for this position will be dependent upon the experience and qualifications of the successful candidate. The starting salary will be in the range of \$75,961 to \$115,752. The City of Fayetteville offers employees an excellent fringe benefit package.

This position will remain open until filled. Interested candidates are encouraged to apply as soon as possible, as applications will be reviewed as they are received prior to a City selection process. To be considered for this career opportunity as the Utilities Director, attach a resume that includes length of time in each position, current salary, size of staff and budgets managed, plus four work-related references to your online job application for this position at [www.accessfayetteville.org/careers](http://www.accessfayetteville.org/careers). For further information, please contact James L. Mercer, President/CEO, The Mercer Group, Inc., 1000 Cordova Place, #726, Santa Fe, NM 87505. Voice: 505-466-9500; Fax: 505-466-1274. E-Mail: [jmercer@mercergroupinc.com](mailto:jmercer@mercergroupinc.com); Website: [www.mercergroupinc.com](http://www.mercergroupinc.com) ***EOE. Under the Arkansas Freedom of Information Act, all applications for this position are subject to public disclosure upon request by any Arkansas resident.***

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