



CITY OF OTTUMWA, IOWA
DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

THE POSITION IN BRIEF

This position works under the direction of the City Administrator while providing expert advice to the city organization and the City Council related to financial planning and management of city operations and capital development.

THE CITY

Ottumwa, Iowa (population 25,350), located in Wapello County (southeastern Iowa). Ottumwa is a regional hub offering amenities to both residents and neighboring communities. Ottumwa is located along the Des Moines River; 73 miles east of I-35 at Osceola on Highway 34 and 85 miles on Highway 163 from the Des Moines International Airport. Ottumwa is a Main Street community with a revitalized downtown district including a train depot for Amtrak and anchored by a Public Library, City Hall, and County Courthouse, all part of the National Register of Historic Places.

A unique community where economic opportunity is local; kids can attend great schools, you can own your own home, community involvement is valued, and friends are just next-door. The town combines small-town Iowa values with growth and employment opportunities. The City seeks its new Director of Finance to be trained and skilled in understanding that innovative financial services management can be the foundation of a sustainable city.



THE CITY

Ottumwa is growing. Sizable developments have spurred additional commercial investment, by locally owned businesses and national corporations. Investment is encouraged by a community that shows specific evidence of opportunity as follows:

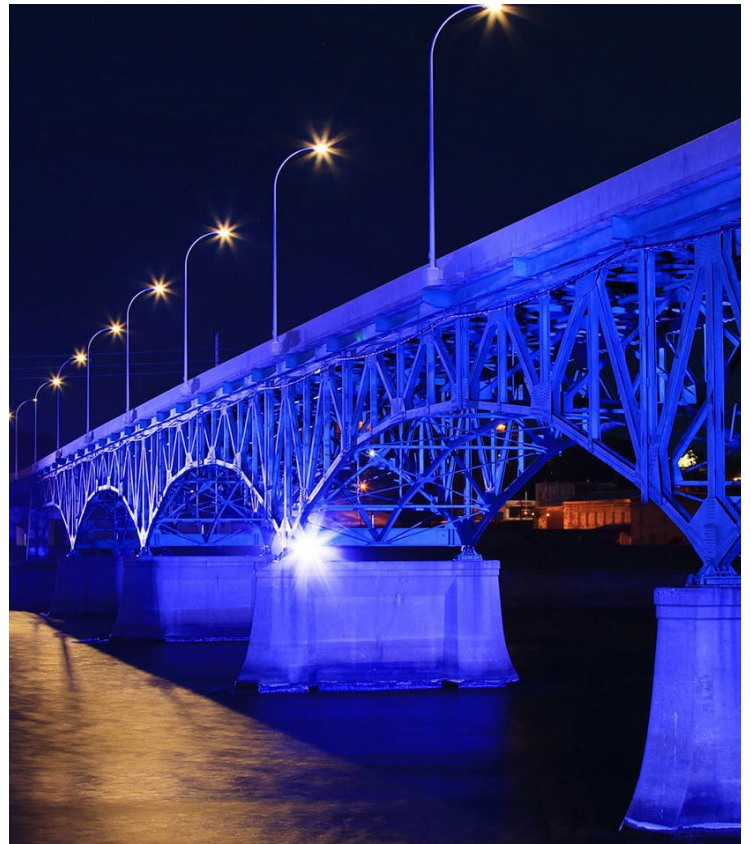
- **Airport:** Ottumwa has a Regional Airport and is only 88 miles from the Des Moines International Airport, a hub providing nonstop flights to 21 major airports in the US.
- **Arts and Culture:** The Bridge View Center includes a theater, conference center and exhibit hall which attracts an array of events for all ages.
- **Education:** The district's goal of "Be the Best" is a vision focused to engage, educate, and empower every student every day. The district serves approximately 4,600 students and is comprised of one preschool, six elementary schools, one middle school, and one high school. Additionally, there are thirty-five colleges and universities within 100 miles of Ottumwa serving a wide variety of advanced educational needs. Indian Hills Community College is located in Ottumwa, which provides academic programs in multiple fields to students across the world.
- **Library:** The Ottumwa Public Library exists to enrich the quality of life of the community by providing informational, educational, cultural, and recreational resources and experiences in a comfortable setting serving over 80,000 patrons.
- **Parks and Recreation:** Ottumwa offers a wide variety of opportunities including twenty-two parks, camping, fishing, bicycle and pedestrian trails, baseball and softball diamonds, water children's playgrounds, disc golf, volleyball courts, picnic areas, tennis and basketball courts, performance stage areas, soccer fields, a skate park and waterpark and more.



Read more about Ottumwa through their innovative Partners in Progress organization. <https://www.gopip.org/>

DEMOGRAPHICS & AMMENITIES

- Average Age - **36.7 years**
- Median Home Price - **\$106,000**
- Median household income - **\$44,349**
- **94.74%** graduation rate and **68.9%** in labor market have education credential beyond high school
- **690** acres of parks and greenspace; **16** mile paved trail system
 - New indoor sports complex, all-wheels skate park, soccer complex and sensory park
- **1.8%** business growth rate 2025





THE ORGANIZATION

Ottumwa is a full-service local government, including administration, cemetery, engineering, finance, fire, health and inspections, parks and recreation, planning and development, library, public works, transit and wastewater utilities. 183 full-time and 33 part-time and seasonal employees provide these services.

The City of Ottumwa is chartered as a Mayor-Council form of government with a City Administrator. There are five (5) council members elected to four-year overlapping terms. The Mayor also serves a four-year term. The City Administrator serves as a liaison between the City Council and city staff. Council meets in regular session on the first and third Tuesdays of the month at 5:30 PM in the council chambers on the second floor of City Hall.

THE FINANCE DEPARTMENT AND CULTURE IN THE ORGANIZATION

The City of Ottumwa senior level staff has a blend of senior members and individuals new to the team. They are a cohesive unit ready to tackle issues and projects with professionalism and with the attitude that everyone has something positive to contribute. There is genuine care for each other and the community as well as a sense of fun while working together. The finance department currently houses three full-time positions in addition to the Director. This team endeavors to support the direct service of the city through creative financial leadership and processes with a compass on the local economy.

Philip Rath is the City Administrator for Ottumwa. Mr. Rath has more than 20 years' experience in the field of public administration. Mr. Rath has a bachelor's degree in Economics with an emphasis in Politics and Government. He has a master's degree in Public Administration. About this role, he says, "We seek a Director of Finance that will work as an active leader on our team, managing our funds and helping them with financial solutions in the delivery of their services and in support of a sustainable local economy."

FINANCIAL STATS:

- The city's tax rate for FY27 is **\$21.00928** per \$1,000 valuation
- General Fund operating budget of approximately **\$21 million**
- Anticipated coverage ratio debt service of **126.63%**
- **\$34.242 million** FY25 in GO, TIF and revenue debt service
- The city has a **1A** Moody Bond Rating





IDEAL CANDIDATE

- Be approachable and possess exceptional interpersonal skills.
- Demonstrate advanced finance and accounting skills that support the economic resilience of city government and the overall community.
- Support City Council goals and strategic plan by providing financial options to the City Administrator, City Council, and staff.
- Always consider the why of financial asks and support necessary initiatives by finding ways to achieve mutual interests.
- Be ethical, innovative, selfless, community oriented and optimistic.
- Be a skilled communicator of financial terms and practices with staff, the City Council, and the public.
- Be a patient, steady, and flexible leader who will promote a culture of accountability and transparency.
- Understand the City's role in supporting economic development initiatives including urban renewal and tax increment financing.
- Have a high level of emotional intelligence and be a listener who is open to others' ideas.
- Be a coach that motivates employees to get past their comfort zones and innovate.
- Treat others with kindness, respect, and humility.
- Be committed to diversity, inclusiveness, and equity in the city organization and the community.
- Demonstrated effective and efficient communication to multiple teams in various locations to gain alignment on vision, strategy, expectations, and accountability.

CANDIDATE REQUIREMENTS/ PREFERENCES

- A bachelor's degree in accounting, finance, business or public administration, or a closely related field. Master's degree preferred.
- 5 years of professional experience in finance are preferred, including 3 years in a municipality. Certified Public Accountant license is preferred.
- Must be bondable.
- Residency requirement of Wapello County, Iowa

The salary range is \$124,174 - \$161,425 (DOQ) with a comprehensive benefits package including the Iowa Public Employee Retirement System. The City of Ottumwa supports a flexible work schedule program.

Interested candidates should apply online at https://www.ottumwa.us/departments/human_resources/employment.php and provide a resume and cover letter. The first review of resumes will be the week of June 22, 2026.

The City of Ottumwa, Iowa is an equal opportunity employer.