



City of Ames

Police Officer (Hiring Incentive for Iowa Certified and Non-Certified)

SALARY	\$33.35 - \$48.84 Hourly \$68,967.80 - \$101,001.12 Annually	LOCATION	515 Clark Avenue, Ames, IA, 50010, IA
JOB TYPE	Full-Time	JOB NUMBER	26-2216-01
DEPARTMENT	Police	OPENING DATE	09/04/2026
CLOSING DATE	10/9/2026 12:00 PM Central	FLSA	Non-Exempt
BARGAINING UNIT	PPME	RESIDENCY REQUIREMENT?	Yes
RESIDENCY REQUIREMENT AREAS	https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/b15a259924c342e1a434d38c270a4a0b		

Centrally located in the heart of Iowa, Ames is a vibrant, progressive community with more than 66,000 residents providing an excellent quality of life. Home to Iowa State University, Ames offers year-round recreation opportunities, diverse cultural offerings, a stable economy, safe neighborhoods, and a high-achieving school district.

General Information

<https://www.youtube.com/embed/97rsAGfo1eQ?&wmode=opaque&rel=0>

The City of Ames is conducting a recruitment to fill current openings for Police Officer with the City of Ames Police Department. For applicants, please see below the dates of application review for timely consideration.

Police Officers perform work related to the enforcement of law, maintenance of order, protection of life and property, and prevention of crime; contributes to citywide problem-solving and performs related work as required. Work is within a 24/7/365 environment and subject to shift assignment and occasional mandatory overtime.

To witness what it is like to work for the City of Ames Police Department and find additional information on the pre-employment requirements, please visit the Ames PD website: [Join the Ames Police Department](#). For further information please also see [Ames Police Department Facebook Page](#) and [City of Ames Police X Page \(formerly](#)

[Twitter](#)).

HIRING WAGE INCENTIVE

For this recruitment, any Iowa certified Officer, **OR**, any out-of-state certified Officer who can gain certification through examination with the ILEA, who begins employment as a result of this recruitment, shall receive a hiring wage incentive to equal \$2000.

Any non-certified Officer who begins employment from this recruitment shall receive a hiring wage incentive to equal \$1000.

This incentive shall be paid in the following increments:

- 1) 50% upon hire
- 2) 25% after 6 months of employment
- 3) 25% after probationary period ends or 12 months of employment (whichever is later)

SALARY

The current starting annual salary for this position is \$66,794 (\$32.30 per hour). Specified months of City of Ames PD service are applied as step increases, per the PPME bargaining agreement. Annual salaries for Police Officers are based on a 2068 hours worked schedule. Salaries may be subject to change according to worked overtime.

*The City of Ames is **offering lateral transfers** for certified officers, **up to step D (49-72 months)**. Current Iowa Law Enforcement Academy certification will be required before applying any step consideration.*

The current steps are outlined below:

July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027

<u>Months</u>	<u>Hourly Rate</u>	<u>Annual Pay</u>
0-12	\$33.35	\$68,965
3-24	\$34.55	\$71,441
25-48	\$36.53	\$75,554
49-72	\$38.52	\$79,664
73-96	\$40.61	\$83,980
97-120	\$43.33	\$89,596
121-144	\$44.94	\$92,936
145+	\$48.84	\$101,000

This position is also bound by a residency requirement per the same bargaining agreement, which is outlined under "Other Supplemental Information" later in this posting.

BENEFITS

Our comprehensive benefits package can be viewed at: [City of Ames Benefits](#)

Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) Program: The PSLF Program is a federal program that is intended to encourage individuals to work in public service by forgiving the balance of their federal student loans. To qualify, the individual must have made 120 qualifying payments while employed by a qualifying employer. For more information, please visit the website through this link: [PSLF Program](#)

In order to be considered for this position, all applicants must submit their online application by the deadline listed on this posting. Your application includes complete responses to the supplemental questions. Please keep in mind that submission of a resume in lieu of work history on your application or answering the supplemental questions is not sufficient.

Important Dates for this Recruitment

POST exam and Agility Testing is scheduled for October 16th ONLY. Interviews will be scheduled for those passing POST and Agility (or have passing scores for either on file with Human Resources by October 9th) either the afternoon of October 16th or the following Monday.

Further details will be emailed to those candidates who qualify prior to each date. Candidates must pass each step of our process before being moved to the next step.

Examples of Essential Job Functions

Patrols assigned area in various vehicles or on foot to prevent, discover, and deter the commission of crime; to enforce criminal laws, traffic laws, parking regulations, and City ordinances; and to check the functioning of traffic signals, and road conditions. Monitors and directs vehicular and pedestrian traffic as required.

Provides general assistance to persons in need; provides first aid for injured persons. Answers calls regarding complaints, misdemeanors and felonies; interviews persons with complaints or inquiries; attempts to make proper disposition or direct them to proper authorities. Apprehends suspects. Conducts investigations; searches for and preserves evidence; questions suspects and witnesses; takes written statements; maintains surveillance over persons and places; effects arrests and charges; creates reports; serves warrants. Answers calls involving automobile accidents; takes safeguards to prevent further accidents; clears scene of obstructions and/or wreckage. Conducts accident investigations; reports traffic control device malfunctions and obstructions of view; examines roadways and vehicles; takes various types of measurements associated with crime scenes vehicle crashes and other incidents. Enforces traffic regulations; operates radar equipment; issues traffic and parking tickets; directs traffic at community events. Assists other emergency personnel as needed; secures emergency scene. Testifies as a witness in court. Reports equipment malfunctions and performs minor maintenance and repair.

Books, fingerprints, and photographs prisoners; oversees well being of individuals in custody; follows and maintains detention facility rules and procedures. Transports individuals to and from detention facility.

Provides information to public in accordance with public reporting regulations. Engages in community policing, relationship building, and problem-solving. Embraces ongoing training to maintain professional competence. Builds trust with citizen groups. Acts as department representative providing formal and informal presentations on relevant issues to community groups, schools, etc.

Other Job Functions: May act in specialty assignments including Community Resource, Drug Task Force or Safe Neighborhoods Team. May serve as juvenile officer, performing a full range of preventative and investigative duties. May perform duty as a detective.

Each employee is expected to continually strive to bring shared values to life through our Excellence Through People organizational culture. ETP values include: committing to continuous improvement; inspiring creativity and innovation;

being customer driven; making data-driven decisions; championing employee involvement; striving for excellence; having fiscal stewardship; acting with honesty and integrity; exhibiting leadership; choosing a positive attitude; respect and dignity for one another; promoting safety and wellness; and cultivating teamwork. For leaders, this includes creating a work culture that brings these values to life. For all employees, this includes maintaining a Total City Perspective. The purpose of ETP is to deliver exceptional services to the public at the best price, and for employees to experience an enjoyable and stimulating work environment.

Qualifications

Education and Experience: Successful completion of high school, HiSet, or GED, **PLUS 60 semester hours or 90 quarter hours in an accredited college or university in diversified academic subjects, OR an equivalent combination of education and relevant experience may substitute for the minimum of 60 semester hours or 90 quarter hours of accredited higher education.** Not to be included are technical or occupation courses; however, technical or community college credits will be considered if credits are in criminal justice, liberal arts, or a closely related field. Certification by a law enforcement academy may not substitute for any course credit.

Licenses and Certificates: Must obtain a valid Iowa driver license upon appointment. Must demonstrate a safe and conscientious regard for traffic laws. Must meet all state standards for Peace Officer certification, complete the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy, and achieve certification within one year of appointment. Must exceed Iowa Law Enforcement Academy fitness testing standards to be eligible for hire; must complete ILEA based testing biannually.

Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities Necessary to Perform Essential Functions:

Some knowledge of the purpose of law enforcement and criminal justice system.

Working skill in observing factual situations analytically and objectively and to record them clearly and completely; working skill in verbal and written communication; some skill in following strict routines.

Ability to effectively communicate and work with a wide variety people and personalities. Ability to maintain a strong and visible commitment to integrity and fairness. Working ability to react quickly and calmly in emergencies; working ability to understand and carry out oral and written instructions; working ability to handle situations firmly, courteously, tactfully, and impartially; working ability to develop proficiency in the use of firearms and in the operation of motor vehicles and computer applications; working ability to use good judgment in evaluating situations, problem-solving and making sound decisions; working ability to gather, assemble, analyze, and evaluate facts and evidence and to draw sound conclusions; some ability to obtain valid information by interview and interrogation.

Supplemental Information

Physical & Environmental Characteristics

Required Physical Activities: Climbing, balancing, stooping, kneeling, crouching, crawling, reaching, standing, walking, pushing, pulling, lifting, grasping, feeling, talking, hearing, repetitive motions, manual dexterity, shooting, restraining prisoners, defensive tactics.

Physical Characteristics of Work: Work requires exerting a negligible amount of force constantly; up to 20 pound of force frequently; and in excess of 50 pounds occasionally to move objects. Must be able to perform physical tasks under stressful conditions.

Vision Requirements: Uncorrected vision of not less than 20/100 in both eyes, correctable to 20/20; vision cannot be inhibited by color blindness or night blindness.

Environmental Conditions: The worker may be exposed to both inside and outside environmental conditions; extreme heat (above 100 degrees) or cold (below 32 degrees) for periods of more than one hour; noise; vibration; atmospheric conditions that affect the respiratory system (i.e. dust, fumes, gasses, odors); and hazards.

Equipment Essential to the Job: Patrol car, 2-way radio, base radio, portable radio, mobile telephones, body camera, keys, unlocking tools, radar/tuning forks, speedometer, emergency lighting, various firearms and other weapons, safety/locking devices, impact weapon, tear gas/launcher, chemical irritants, face mask, protective vest, handcuffs, flashlight, sirens, first aid kit, defibrillator, and resuscitator. Barricades, flares, noise meter, preliminary breath test, intoxilyzer, measurement devices/wheel, still camera, latex gloves and ticket books. Various computers, printers and related software. Telephone, paper forms, various types of recording equipment. Maps, headsets, alarm boards, fingerprint equipment, GPS, copy machine, warrants and warrant records, video monitors.

Other Equipment Used on the Job: Prisoner transport van, pickups, bicycle, taser, small equipment and tools, recording equipment, engraver, gun cleaning tools and equipment, latex or nylex gloves, various crime scene testing materials.

Other Supplemental Information

****Minimum education requirements or equivalency will be verified in the background process should you be given a contingent offer of employment.**

Selection Process:

The selection process consists of an evaluation of the application as a whole with education/experience, preliminary background check, physical agility testing, POST exam, phone interview, oral board interview, Chief of Police interview, POST, an extensive background investigation (including criminal history, financial and employment verification, and driving record), polygraph, psychological exam (MMPI) and physical exam (including a drug test). Candidates must successfully pass each component to continue in the process. Finalists will also be required to sign a no tobacco usage pledge.

****Preference may be given to applicants possessing qualifications above the minimum.****
Depending on the number of qualified candidates, the City may forego phone interviews.

For further details on this process, please see the Join Ames PD webpage at [Join Ames PD website](#).

Residency Requirement

All employees governed by the PPME contract (which includes Police Officers) are required to reside within an area bordered by State Highway 65 on the east, County Road R-27 north of Boone and Des Moines River south of Highway 30 on the west, Story County line on the north, and Polk County Road F-22 on the south. Communities intersected by the borderlines shall be within the area. For further details of what area this includes, please view the Ames Employee Residency Map link here (area in light blue): [MAP](#).

E-Verify Process:

The City of Ames participates in E-Verify and will provide the Social Security Administration (SSA) and, if necessary, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), with information from each applicant's Form I-9 to confirm work authorization. All candidates who are offered a position with the City of Ames must complete Section 1 of Form I-9 along with the required proof of their right to work in the United States and proof of their identity on their first day of employment. Please be prepared to provide required documents on your first day of

employment. For additional information regarding acceptable documents for this purpose, please contact Human Resources at 515-239-5199 or go to the US Citizenship and Immigration Services web page at: <http://www.uscis.gov>.

NOTE: Applicants with disabilities may submit requests for ADA testing or interview accommodations to the Human Resources Department prior to the test or interview.

The City of Ames is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action employer. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, creed, age, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, genetic information, ancestry, national origin, marital status, disability, or protected veteran status and will not be discriminated against. Inquiries can be directed to the Human Resources Department at 515-239-5199.

Employer

City of Ames

Address

515 Clark Ave

Ames, Iowa, 50010

Phone

515-239-5199

Website

<http://www.cityofames.org/jobs>

Police Officer (Hiring Incentive for Iowa Certified and Non-Certified) Supplemental Questionnaire

*QUESTION 1

All applicants who meet the minimum requirements of this recruitment will be subject to a preliminary criminal history and motor vehicle record (MVR) check. I understand the information obtained in these checks will be used to make hiring decisions for this recruitment.

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

*QUESTION 2

All candidates will have a review of their driving records during a preliminary background check investigation. The violations that may disqualify a candidate from further consideration if the offense occurred within certain time frames are listed below. The listed disqualifying factors may not be all inclusive. A history of repeated disregard for traffic regulations, public safety and the level of offense, may also disqualify a candidate.

Please acknowledge that you are aware you will be disqualified due to traffic and public safety violations for any of the following acts if found in your recent history:

- (a) Reckless driving, careless driving, or similar offense (1 offense in the last 3 years or 2 offenses in the last 5 years)
- (b) Operating While Intoxicated, Driving Under the Influence (OWI, DUI) of any controlled substance, or driving with a suspended or revoked license (1 offense in last 5 years)
- (c) All moving violations as defined by state code (4 offenses

in last 3 years) (d) Eluding or attempting to elude a police officer (1 offense in last 5 years) (e) Suspension (1 offense in last 2 years) (f) Revocation (1 offense in last 5 years) (g) Hit & Run - Failure to Give Information or Failure to Give Information and Aid (1 offense in last 10 years)

☐ Yes, I understand I may be disqualified due to a history of disregard for traffic regulations, public safety and certain levels of offense, as listed above. I also understand that this list is NOT all inclusive.

*QUESTION 3

For questions 3 and 4, the information provided will only be used to run the criminal history and MVR checks and will not be used in the evaluation of applications. Your responses to these two questions will not be viewable on your application.

#3 What is your date of birth, including month, day, and year?

*QUESTION 4

What is your social security number?

*QUESTION 5

Iowa Administrative Code rule 501-2.1(80B) sets the general requirements for law enforcement officers in Iowa. Pursuant to this rule, if an offer of employment is extended, a thorough background investigation will be conducted on your criminal history to determine whether you are of good moral character and have not been convicted of a felony or a crime involving moral turpitude. The rule defines moral turpitude as an act of baseness, vileness, or depravity in the private and social duties which a person owes to another person, or to society in general, contrary to the accepted and customary rule of right and duty between person and person; it is conduct that is contrary to justice, honesty or good morals.

A) Please acknowledge that you are aware you will be disqualified due to moral turpitude if convictions for any of the following acts are found in your criminal history:

- (a) a felony
- (b) tax evasion
- (c) perjury
- (d) theft
- (e) sex crime
- (f) conspiracy to commit a crime
- (g) defrauding the government
- (h) illegal drug sale(s)
- (i) assault, domestic abuse, domestic violence, and/or stalking
- (j) any offense where a weapon was used in the commission of the crime.

☐ Yes, I understand I will be disqualified due to felony conviction(s) and /or convictions of moral turpitude.

*QUESTION 6

B) Please also acknowledge that you understand the above list of acts of moral turpitude is **nonexclusive**.

☐ Yes, I understand the above list of acts of moral turpitude is nonexclusive.

*QUESTION 7

Are you currently a certified peace officer?

☐ Yes

☐ No

***QUESTION 8**

Have you completed and passed an ILEA qualifying physical fitness test with another police department within the last 6 months?

If you answer "yes" below, you must email Human Resources (hr@cityofames.org) requesting that those scores be substituted for the Ames Physical Agility Test AND **provide a certified copy of those scores by the deadline listed on this posting.**

Substitute scores from another agency will only be allowed if candidates show good cause as to why they are unable to attend the Ames Physical Agility Test.

☐ Yes

☐ No

***QUESTION 9**

I acknowledge the following minimum education requirement for this position:

Successful completion of high school, HiSet, or GED., PLUS 60 semester hours or 90 quarter hours in an accredited college or university in diversified academic subjects. Not to be included are technical or occupation courses; however, technical or community college credits will be considered if credits are in criminal justice, liberal arts, or a closely related field. Certification by a law enforcement academy may not substitute for any course credit.

OR

An equivalent combination of education and experience may substitute for the minimum of 60 semester hours or 90 quarter hours of accredited higher education (worth 2 years equivalency).

☐ Yes

☐ No

***QUESTION 10**

Why do you want to be a Police Officer with the City of Ames?

***QUESTION 11**

If any Ames Police Department employee has referred you to this posting, please provide their first and last name, and include position.

If you were not referred, please type in N/A for your response.

*** Required Question**