



[CITY OF]

OTTUMWA



Ottumwa, Iowa

Fire Chief

The City

Ottumwa, Iowa (population 25,350) is 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.

Ottumwa is 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 Fire Chief to be trained and skilled in understanding that innovative financial services management can be the foundation of a sustainable city.

DEMOGRAPHICS & AMMENITIES

- Average Age – **37.3**
- Median value of owner occupied (2016-2020) - **\$75,800**
- Median household income - **\$42,418**
- **2020** Business Community of the Year
- **91.8%** graduation rate and **78%** in labor market have education credential beyond high school
- **690** acres of parks and greenspace



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.
- **Health Care:** In Ottumwa, there are six family and pediatric clinics. In addition, there is a Regional Health Center, Veterans Health clinic, and Community Health Center providing a variety of medical, dental, and behavioral health services.
- **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.



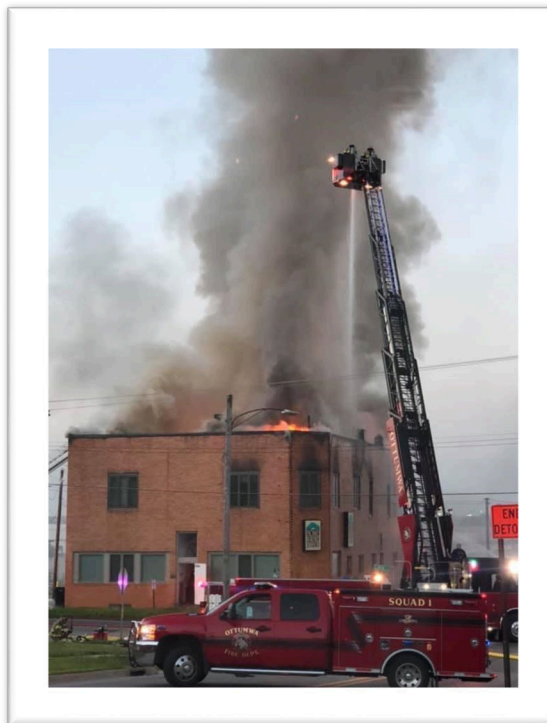
Read more about Ottumwa through their innovative Partners in Progress organization.
<https://www.gopip.org/>

The Department

The Ottumwa Fire Department consists of twenty-nine (29) member career staffed department providing fire, rescue, EMS, and water/ice rescue. The Ottumwa Fire Department also provides regional hazardous materials response to eleven counties, which is known as the Southeast Iowa Response Group. This was the first regional hazardous materials response group organized in Iowa. The fire department also is active in fire prevention activities. This includes the fire fighters providing fire prevention education to all students in kindergarten, 2nd, and 6th grades.

The Fire Chief is supported by a leadership team of a Deputy Chief, 3 Assistant Fire Chiefs and 6 Captains. The rest of the department is supported through career firefighters assigned to 24-hour rotating shifts. Career personnel are represented by the Ottumwa Association of Professional Firefighters Local 395.

The Ottumwa Fire Department has a current ISO rating of 3 as of March 2017.



Call Statistics - 2022

- Emergency Response calls – **3,147**
- Structure Fires – **37**
- Haz-Mat Responses – **3**
- Cooking Fires – **7**
- Vehicle Fires – **24**
- Trash Fires – **111**
- Fire Inspections – **150**
- Fire Investigations - **21**



The Job

The City of Ottumwa is seeking candidates for the position of Fire Chief. The current Chief is retiring after 41 years of service to the Ottumwa Fire Department.



The Fire Chief is a very visible member of the senior leadership team for the City of Ottumwa. The Fire Chief requires well developed leadership abilities and management skill sets that are based upon consensus building and problem-solving. They must be a highly motivated, self-starting, and confident individual with excellent, genuine, and trustworthy interpersonal skills.

- The City is seeking an experienced, innovative, collaborative fire leader with demonstrated managerial, interpersonal and customer service skills. Successful candidates will be able to demonstrate a balance of commitment to the organization as well as the senior management team of the City with a genuine confidence and approachable personality to residents, business and governmental leaders.
- It is particularly important the next Fire Chief be an integral and engaged leader of the Fire Department, with a strong background in modern fire, EMS, Community Risk Reduction, emergency management and all hazards practices.
- The new Fire Chief must understand the need to use data for problem solving assessing community risk and vulnerabilities.
- The Fire Chief should have a positive track record of strong bargaining relations with proven experience in fostering collaboration with Bargaining Unit members.

- The ability to mentor and foster leadership roles within the staff, succession planning, and a global vision of the community's needs and vision are critical. Creativity and the ability to guide and balance change is a must.
- The capability to be an active participant in operations and training to safely function as a command officer on incident scenes including oversight of interior operations.
- The ability to develop strong relationships with surrounding Fire/EMS agencies due to Ottumwa's reliance on shared service agreements to provide Fire/EMS coverage to the community.
- The next Fire Chief will also have a demonstrated record of fairness, transparency and consistency in the administration of Departmental policies and procedures and the willingness to address issues in a positive and timely manner. The Fire Chief must possess well-developed writing and public speaking skills and the utmost integrity.



Successful Candidates

The successful candidate will have:

- Bachelor degree in Public Safety Administration or related field from an accredited college or university. A Master degree is preferred.
- 15 years of firefighting experience and current chief officer in a career municipal fire department.
- At least 7-10 years of demonstrated leadership in supervisory positions with career development as a chief officer
- Candidate's successful completion of the Executive Fire Officer Program offered by the National Fire Academy, and or Chief Fire Officer Designation is desired

Salary / Benefits

The annual salary range for the Fire Chief is \$103,812 - \$134,971, depending upon qualifications. The City of Ottumwa offers an attractive benefits package include full health benefits, paid time off, MFPRSI retirement, flexible spending options and life insurance. Candidates interested in applying should submit an application, resume and cover letter via our company website, <https://www.ottumwa.us/about/employment/>.

The City of Ottumwa is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

