

The City of Fort Morgan, Colorado Recruitment for City Manager



The City

The City of Fort Morgan is a home-rule municipality of approximately 11,000 residents located on the Eastern Plains of Colorado, about 80 miles northeast of Denver. It is the county seat of Morgan County and a commercial, industrial, and recreational hub for Northeast Colorado. The City is situated on a major Interstate Highway that connects Denver with Interstate 80 and Nebraska. Amtrak provides national passenger service through Fort Morgan – east to Chicago and west to California.



The local economy is based in agriculture and related industries, including the Cargill meat-packing plant that employs 2,000 people, the Leprino Foods cheese factory, a large Dairy Farmers of America milk-processing facility and Erker Grain, which is one of the largest bulk producers and exporters of sunflower seeds in the world.

One unique aspect about Fort Morgan is that all utilities are municipally owned and operated, including electric, natural gas, water, wastewater, and sanitation. This not only assures residents of prompt local service and low utility rates but offers many more employment opportunities than most cities of similar size. The City also manages its numerous parks and open spaces, a library/museum complex, a community swimming pool, the municipal golf course, and the municipal airport. Recently, Fort Morgan became one of the only cities in Colorado to build out a fiber backbone to ensure internet and TV service are available to every home and business.

The City has a rich history starting with Camp Wardwell which was established in 1865, The camp was established along the Overland Trail to protect emigrants and supplies going to and from Denver and mining districts. The fort was renamed in 1866 by General John Pope for one of his staff, Colonel Christopher A. Morgan. The fort closed in 1868 after being used by over 1,300 soldiers from cavalry and infantry regiments. The town of Fort Morgan was platted just south of the fort's ruins in 1884 by Abner S. Baker, a member of Greeley's Union Colony. The town became the county seat of the newly formed Morgan County in 1889. During World War II, a military school at the Fort Morgan State Armory was part of the West Coast Air Corps Training Center. Fort Morgan is primarily an agricultural community with a rich blend of small town tradition and down-home hospitality. The natural beauty and welcoming attitude makes for an enjoyable background for vacationers and travelers. The City attractions include the Fort Morgan Museum, Riverside Park, I-76 Speedway, Barn Quilt Tour, Pawnee National Grassland & Buttes, Jackson Lake State Park and a city

City Government

The City of Fort Morgan is a Home Rule municipality and operates under a Council/Manager form of government. The City Council is comprised of seven members with the Mayor as the presiding officer. The City Manager serves as the Chief Administrative officer of the city and has oversight of all City departments except the Volunteer Fire Chief, Police Chief, Municipal Court and the City Attorney's Office.

owned golf course. The demographics of the City have changed dramatically in the past 10 years with migrants from East Africa, Central America and Mexico settling in the City seeking employment and a safe community. The 2010 U.S. Census identified less than 50% of the population being non-white. In Fort Morgan's schools 20% of students are enrolled in English as a Second Language and nearly 70% of students at Fort Morgan High School are non-white.

The Position

The City Council is seeking an energetic, experienced, and creative City Manager who is a proven leader and can develop a productive working relationship between elected officials, city staff and the community. The successful candidate will be a person that understands a very diverse, rural town environment, will be highly visible in the community and can promote a collaborative spirit throughout the organization, build trusting relationships with the Council, Staff and the Community. City Council wants the next manager to be a person with excellent communication skills, high integrity and the willingness to listen to others and make difficult decisions when necessary. A "visionary" who will foster long-term relationships and develop an organization-wide transparency, accountability, and flexibility. Prior experience with financial challenges and economic development will be beneficial. Also, council seeks a person with prior knowledge and experience with electric and gas utilities and prefer experience with water and wastewater also. Understanding economic diversification will be important to support the City Council in addressing future needs of the City.

Education & Experience

The current Job Description for the Fort Morgan City Manager requires a Master's Degree in Public Administration or related field and a minimum of six (6) years progressively responsible management experience. A Bachelor's Degree and eight (8) years of related management experience no degree and 10 years related management experience may be substituted for a Master's Degree. At least five years as a city/county manager, deputy/assistant manager or department director is preferred.

Compensation and Benefits

The salary range for the City Manager is negotiable and dependent upon qualifications. The current salary range is \$120,000 - \$150,000. In addition, the City offers a competitive benefits package that includes vacation and sick time, holiday pay, retirement plan with a City match, health, dental and vision insurance, life insurance and use of a City vehicle. The City Charter requires the City Manager to reside within the City limits.

Application Process

Applications will be accepted electronically through May 29, 2020 at 5:00PM (MDT). ***The position may be open until filled.***

Apply to:

KRW Associates LLC, apply@krw-associates.com.

Applications must include a cover letter, current resume and six professional references. Questions should be directed to info@krw-associates.com.

The City of Fort Morgan is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

