The City of Lamar, Colorado, has a population of 7,656 and is the county seat of Prowers County. The City is located at the crossroads of U.S. 50 and U.S. 287/385, which connect to Interstate Highway 70, an east-west highway running from Utah to Maryland, and Interstate 25, a north-south highway running through New Mexico, Colorado, and Wyoming. Lamar provides outstanding accessibility to major cities, such as Colorado Springs and Denver, and the smaller communities of La Junta, Rocky Ford, and Limon. The City is approximately three hours away from metropolitan Denver and Denver International Airport.

Lamar is a well-planned city centered around a vibrant downtown with unique shopping and dining options. A safe, welcoming, and family-friendly community, Lamar offers an abundance of small-town charm. Residents enjoy a high quality of life and exceptional recreational opportunities in scenic settings. The City has been named Colorado’s Most Affordable Place to Live by Denver Business Journal and the #1 Safest City in Colorado for 2019 by SafeWise.

Lamar School District RE-2 serves the education needs of over 1,578 K-12 students across six campuses. The system provides quality education and a variety of athletics programs, special activities, and other extracurricular activities for all students. Higher education opportunities in the area are provided by Lamar Community College (LCC), a two-year post-secondary institution with a student population of 1,000. LCC is part of the Colorado Community College System and proudly serves the regional counties of Cheyenne, Kiowa, Prowers, and Baca. Otero Junior College, located in La Junta, is also part of the Colorado Community College System.

Lamar provides convenient access to many outstanding recreational and cultural attractions. There are plenty of entertainment options for sports enthusiasts, including the Lamar 4-Plex Ballfield, a Starburst Award-winning field that hosts a popular annual tournament, and Merchants Park, both premier baseball and softball playing fields which attract teams from across the state. Outdoor enthusiasts can enjoy jaunts along the Lamar Loop, a multi-use fitness trail that winds 6.2 miles around the perimeter of the City, and fishing, boating, hiking, camping, and picnicking at the John Martin Reservoir State Park. Lamar is one of Colorado’s best birding destinations. The Indian Reservoirs, North Gateway Park, Willow Creek Park, and Two Buttes State Wildlife Area are ideal spots for watching red-bellied woodpeckers, Inca doves, northern cardinals, and sandhill cranes. Each February, the High Plains Snow Goose Festival celebrates the spring migration of giant white snow geese and is one of the best occasions to see the majestic avian species. The Santa Fe Trail draws visitors from all over the U.S. and the Big Timbers Museum offers information about the City’s heritage. Additionally, the Trailblazer Theatre provides a creative outlet for the City’s youth and a variety of performances. The City also hosts the Downtown Custom & Classic Car Show, Taste of Lamar, and Lamar Days, which celebrates the founding of the City.

The City has a median income of $38,136 and an average home value of $80,800. The City of Lamar and Lamar Community College are major employers.
The City of Lamar is a home rule municipality and operates under the mayor-council form of government. The City Council has seven members, including the Mayor. Members are elected from three wards, with two members elected from each ward, and the Mayor is elected at-large. Council members serve four-year terms, and the Mayor serves a two-year term.

The City Council appoints a City Administrator who acts as the chief administrative officer of the organization. The City Administrator works with the Mayor, City Council, and staff to develop and implement City policies and manages the daily operations of the City. Direct reports include all department directors, the Human Resources Manager, and the City Administrator Assistant.

The City has an annual budget of $22,334,152 and 138 full-time employees.
LEADERSHIP AND INNOVATION

The new City Administrator will find Lamar a welcoming community with a citizenry that is highly engaged with the City government. The City has much potential for economic growth and development. The City Administrator will play a key role in addressing the City’s short- and long-term needs and provide strategic planning that utilizes available resources efficiently and effectively and creates opportunities for sustainable growth.

CAPITAL ASSET MANAGEMENT

The City recognizes the need to build, maintain, and preserve its capital assets within a management plan. This will allow the organization to budget correctly based on needs and plan for the long-term future and development of Lamar. The City Administrator will assist in the development of a Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) that will help the City accomplish its economic goals and objectives.

COMMUNICATION

At the local, state, regional, national, and international level, the City desires to conduct outreach, ask for feedback and input, and make decisions with partners using all the communication tools available. This includes internal communications and communication with partner agencies. The incoming City Administrator will play a key role in overseeing these efforts.

DOWNTOWN REDEVELOPMENT

Lamar’s downtown is a significant asset to the community The City intends to support and create opportunities for both existing and new business owners to create a vibrant downtown that will spur economic development and attract residents and visitors alike. Efforts will focus on attracting new retail and restaurants in cooperation and collaboration with regional partners. The City Administrator will help to develop and strengthen these regional partnerships.

HOUSING DEVELOPMENT

Housing is a critical factor in the future growth and development of Lamar. The City Administrator will address this issue by assisting in updating the Comprehensive Plan and the Annexation Plan to ensure the City’s infrastructure is able to support such development.
THE IDEAL CANDIDATE

The City of Lamar seeks a visionary, self-motivated municipal professional with exceptional leadership skills to serve as its new City Administrator. The ideal candidate will possess a strong sense of ethics and foster a culture of accountability throughout the organization. The chosen City Administrator will be a customer service-focused people person with an open-door policy for communication with Council members, staff, residents, and other stakeholders and must be willing to accept feedback and constructive criticism in guiding the City through future growth and development.

A team-builder with a collaborative, inclusive management style, the new City Administrator will mentor and coach staff, providing opportunities for professional development and enrichment. The City Administrator will maintain the forward momentum of the organization and unite staff with a shared sense of purpose that supports the City's mission and vision. It will be important for the City Administrator to convey expectations with clarity and authority, while trusting department heads and other appointees to manage their areas of responsibility successfully, and will handle conflict with tact and diplomacy. Excellent interpersonal skills and an ability to communicate effectively both orally and in written communications are required.

The City desires a candidate with a strong financial acumen and extensive knowledge of budgeting and accounting. The City Administrator should keep abreast of advancements in the field and know how to leverage technology to improve services. An ability to collaborate and establish strong partnerships throughout the region will be essential. Economic development experience is a plus. The City Administrator should be comfortable making recommendations to the City Council and work closely with Council members to guide the organization in establishing Lamar as a destination for tourism and an ideal location for potential residents. The selected individual will engage enthusiastically in community activities and will develop an appreciation for Lamar’s culture, history, and traditions.
EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE

Eight years of senior management experience in a comparably sized or larger municipal government and an undergraduate degree from a four-year, post-secondary degree-granting institution with major coursework in business administration, public administration, or a field related to the core functions of this position are required. A candidate with a graduate degree and three-five years of experience as a city manager or assistant city manager is highly desirable. The selected candidate must be bondable and must have or be able to obtain within thirty days of hire a Colorado drivers license.

COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS

The City of Lamar offers a competitive salary, dependent on experience and qualifications. Employees can choose to participate in the Lamar Employee Pension Plan or Social Security. A supplemental 457 deferred compensation program is available through One America or the International City Manager’s Association (ICMA) for all employees. A generous benefits package including medical, dental, and vision insurance and paid vacation and sick leave is provided. The City Administrator is provided with a cell phone, laptop, and the use of a company car.
APPLICATION PROCESS

Please apply online at: http://bit.ly/SGRCurrentSearches

For more information on this position contact:

Larry Gilley, Senior Vice President
Strategic Government Resources
LarryGilley@GovernmentResource.com
325-660-4208

This position is open until filled. To view the status of this position, please visit:

The City of Lamar is an Equal Opportunity Employer and values diversity in its workforce. Applicants selected as finalists for this position will be subject to a comprehensive background check.