



UTILITIES DIRECTOR

Support Division

Annual Salary:

\$97,760 – \$145,308 (DOE/DOQ)

Safford, Arizona

Are you a visionary, solutions-oriented utilities executive who can lead complex capital projects, mentor staff, and build strong regional partnerships?

If so, apply to be the City of Safford's next Utilities Director!

We're looking for an exceptional, forward-thinking leader who is:

- Experienced in managing large-scale utility infrastructure capital projects
- Skilled at stakeholder engagement and collaborative problem-solving
- Adept at fostering high-performing teams with accountability and professional growth

Safford – a full-service community with small-town values and big opportunities – read on to learn more about this exciting role!

ABOUT THE COMMUNITY

Safford is a thriving, rural city in Southeastern Arizona's Gila Valley, serving as the major hub for Graham County. Known for its historic roots, tight-knit community, and stunning desert-mountain scenery, Safford balances a rich agricultural and mining heritage with a modern, service-driven economy.

Located about 100 miles northeast of Tucson near Mt. Graham, Safford offers abundant outdoor activities like hiking, boating, and birdwatching, plus educational and cultural attractions such as the Discovery Park Campus and the Mt. Graham International Observatory.

Historically founded in 1874 and incorporated in 1901, today Safford blends its historic downtown with progressive infrastructure and high-quality public services.



GOVERNANCE & ORGANIZATION

The City of Safford operates under a council-manager form of government. The Mayor and six councilmembers are elected at-large for four-year, staggered terms with no term limits.



POPULATION
10,257



MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME
\$65,727



MEDIAN HOME VALUE
\$191,600
AVERAGE MONTHLY RENT
\$976

Tourism & Activities



History





ABOUT THE JOB

The Support Division provides leadership and oversight to Safford's utilities services, including water, wastewater, gas, electric, meter operations, and customer service.

Reporting to the City Manager, the new Utilities Director will:

- Plan and execute large-scale capital improvement projects
- Oversee water reuse and long-term water infrastructure initiatives
- Develop and manage budgets, rates, and utility policies
- Represent Safford on the Southwest Public Power Agency Board
- Champion operational excellence, innovation, and customer service

[Full Job Description](#)



ORGANIZATION DIVISIONS

- WATER
- WASTEWATER
- GAS
- ELECTRIC
- METER SERVICES

ORGANIZATION QUICKFACTS



CITY EMPLOYEES

~230



CITY BUDGET

~\$82
MILLION

KEY PROJECTS FOR 2025

- REGIONAL WATER REUSE COLLABORATION AND GRANT PURSUIT
- DEVELOPMENT OF A NEW ELECTRICAL SUBSTATION
- LONG-TERM WATER INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING

THE IDEAL CANDIDATE

The next Utilities Director for the City of Safford will be a dynamic, forward-thinking leader who brings both vision and practical experience to this critical role. They will demonstrate:

- High emotional intelligence and excellent communication skills
- Collaboration and building partnerships and trust with staff, City Departments, City Council, and diverse community and regional stakeholders
- Initiative and proactive approach in identifying timely, cost-effective and sustainable solutions for complex issues
- A proven track record of managing large-scale utility infrastructure projects to completion



EXPERIENCE & QUALIFICATIONS

Required:

- Bachelor's Degree in Engineering, Environmental Sciences, Urban/Regional Planning, Geography, Public or Business Administration, Business Management, or a related field
- Five years of progressively responsible management experience in utilities with three to five years of project management experience in capital projects or utility operations



SALARY & BENEFITS

- **Compensation:** \$97,760 – \$145,308 DOE/DOQ
- **Health Benefits:** 90% employer-paid health, dental, and vision; EPO or high-deductible plan options
- **Paid Leave:** Vacation and sick leave
- **Retirement:** Arizona State Retirement System with current employee and employer contribution rate of 12%
- **Additional Perks:**
 - ♦ City-provided cell phone
 - ♦ Up to \$4,000 in relocation reimbursement
 - ♦ Professional development opportunities



HOW TO APPLY

[Apply Here](#)



For more information on this position, contact:

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