



# DEPUTY FINANCE OFFICER

Finance Department

**Annual Salary:**

**\$83,200 – \$123,630 DOE/DOQ**

Safford, Arizona



Are you a strategic municipal finance professional who can lead budgeting, financial planning, capital improvement programming, audit coordination, and organizational modernization efforts? If so, apply to be the City of Safford's next Deputy Finance Officer!

We're looking for an exceptional, collaborative leader who is:

- Experienced in governmental accounting
- Skilled in financial forecasting, capital planning, and process improvement
- Adept at building strong relationships across departments while driving organizational excellence

**Safford – the Pride of the Gila Valley – read on to learn more about this exciting opportunity!**

Executive Recruitment Provided by

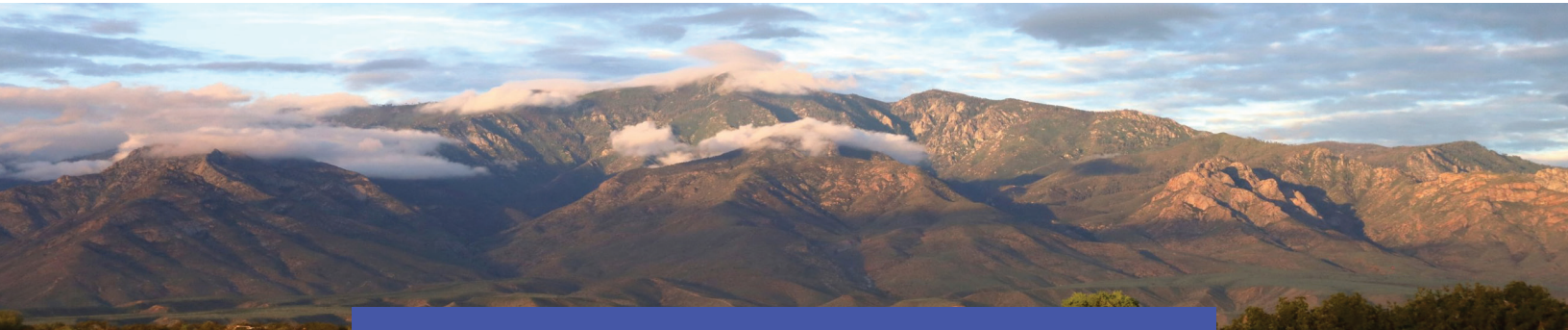


# ABOUT THE COMMUNITY

Safford is a thriving rural community located in Southeastern Arizona's scenic Gila Valley and serves as the economic, governmental, and service hub for Graham County. Known for its strong sense of community, welcoming atmosphere, and exceptional quality of life, Safford blends small-town charm with a growing regional economy supported by agriculture, energy, mining, tourism, healthcare, and small business development.

Located approximately 100 miles northeast of Tucson near Mount Graham, residents enjoy abundant outdoor recreation including hiking, camping, fishing, boating, birdwatching, hot springs, and year-round access to Arizona's natural beauty. Attractions such as Discovery Park, the Mount Graham International Observatory, and numerous community events contribute to a vibrant and family-friendly lifestyle.

Founded in 1874 and incorporated in 1901, Safford has grown from its agricultural roots into a modern full-service city while maintaining its historic character and community values. Today, residents enjoy affordable living, quality public services, and a collaborative civic culture focused on continued growth and improvement.



POPULATION  
**10,257**



MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME  
**\$65,647**



MEDIAN HOME VALUE  
**\$199,800**  
AVERAGE MONTHLY RENT  
**\$1,048**

[History](#)



[Tourism](#)



## GOVERNANCE & ORGANIZATION

The City of Safford operates under a Council-Manager form of government. The Mayor and six Councilmembers are elected at-large to four-year staggered terms. The City Manager serves as the chief administrative officer and oversees a diverse organization that delivers essential municipal services throughout the community.

The City provides a full range of services including:

- Utilities (water, wastewater, electric, gas, sanitation, landfill)
- Public Works, Engineering, Airport, and Community Development
- Police, Fire, Library, Finance, Human Resources, and Information Technology

The organization manages approximately \$132 million in annual operations and employs over 230 staff members, seasonal employees, volunteer firefighters, and elected officials.



## ABOUT THE JOB

The Finance Department safeguards the City's financial resources and ensures the integrity, transparency, and accountability of all financial operations. The department oversees budgeting, accounting, payroll, utility billing, financial reporting, auditing, debt administration, capital planning, and treasury functions.

Reporting to the Finance Officer, the new Deputy Finance Officer will:

- Lead development and monitoring of the City's annual operating budget and Capital Improvement Program (CIP)
- Coordinate financial forecasting, long-range planning, and performance reporting
- Assist with audits, internal controls, debt administration, and regulatory compliance
- Oversee utility billing operations, rate analyses, and cost-of-service studies
- Support modernization initiatives, technology improvements, and financial process enhancements

This position serves as a key member of the City's leadership team and offers significant opportunity to influence strategic decision-making while preparing for future advancement opportunities.

[Full Job Description](#)



## DEPARTMENT STRUCTURE

Divisions within the City organization include:

- Budget & Financial Planning
- Accounting & Financial Reporting
- Payroll
- Utility Billing & Customer Service
- Business Services & AMI Operations

## DEPARTMENT QUICKFACTS



STAFF

**6**



DEPARTMENT BUDGET

**\$1.179**

MILLION

## KEY PROJECTS FOR 2026

- Address and resolve audit findings while strengthening internal controls
- Improve capital project tracking, reporting, and CIP oversight
- Modernize financial reporting systems and evaluate future software solutions
- Enhance long-range financial forecasting and strategic planning
- Support fleet replacement planning and capital asset management initiatives

# THE IDEAL CANDIDATE

The ideal candidate will be a well-rounded municipal finance professional with strong experience in budgeting, governmental accounting, auditing, financial reporting, and capital planning. They will bring a combination of technical expertise and collaborative leadership, enabling them to work effectively with elected officials, executive leadership, department directors, and staff throughout the organization.

Successful candidates will possess excellent communication and presentation skills, demonstrate initiative and curiosity, and be comfortable translating complex financial information into actionable recommendations. They will have a strong understanding of municipal finance best practices, utility fund operations, capital improvement programming, and financial systems. The successful candidate will be both strategic and hands-on, capable of leading modernization efforts while supporting daily financial operations and building strong relationships across the organization.



## EXPERIENCE & QUALIFICATIONS

### Required:

- Bachelor's degree in Business, Public Administration, Finance, Accounting, or a closely related field
- Five years of professional management support experience, including at least two years in public administration or municipal government, or an equivalent combination of education and experience
- Experience with municipal budgeting, financial planning, auditing, accounting, and governmental operations
- Strong knowledge of financial management systems, budgeting processes, and governmental regulations
- Ability to communicate effectively with elected officials, staff, and the public

### Preferred:

- Utility finance, rate analysis, and cost-of-service experience
- Capital improvement planning and asset management experience
- Experience leading financial modernization initiatives and system implementations
- CPA, CPFO, or other relevant professional certification

# SALARY & BENEFITS

- **Compensation:** \$83,200 – \$123,630 DOE/DOQ
- **Health Benefits:** Comprehensive medical, dental, and vision insurance programs available through the City's benefits package
- **Paid Leave:** Sick leave accrues at eight hours per month. Vacation leave accrues at eight hours per month during the first five years of service, increasing with tenure
- **Retirement:** Arizona State Retirement System participation and other retirement benefits available through City programs
- **Additional Perks:**
  - ♦ City-provided cell phone
  - ♦ Professional development and training opportunities
  - ♦ Relocation assistance available
  - ♦ Opportunity for advancement into future finance leadership roles
  - ♦ Broad exposure to municipal operations including utilities, airport, capital programs, and strategic initiatives
  - ♦ Collaborative and positive organizational culture focused on modernization and continuous improvement



## HOW TO APPLY

Apply Here



For more information on this position, contact:

**Kevin Knutson, Senior Vice President, Executive Recruitment**

[kevinknutson@governmentresource.com](mailto:kevinknutson@governmentresource.com) | 727-754-0407

*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 investigation.*