



WHEATON, ILLINOIS FIRE CHIEF

The City of Wheaton, IL (52,749) located approximately 25 miles west of Chicago, and the County Seat of DuPage County, IL is seeking an experienced and passionate leader to serve as its next Fire Chief. The City has been listed amongst the “Top 25 Highest Earning Towns” (CNNMoney) having a very desirable family oriented culture, rich with many retail, park, education, dining and faith based churches, synagogues, mosques and more.

The City is home to Wheaton College located just east of downtown, which has been referred to as “The Harvard of Evangelical Schools” and is known for its interdenominational elite liberal arts education. The Daniel F. and Ada L. Rice Campus of the Illinois Institute of Technology is also located in Wheaton and is home to the School of Applied Technology providing education and training for working professionals. Located in nearby communities is the College of DuPage serving community college students in the region. Wheaton is also home to the DuPage County Fair and the DuPage County government campus.

The Fire Chief position is a very visible member of the senior leadership team of the City and requires well-developed leadership abilities and management skill sets that are based upon consensus building and problem-solving. He/she must be a highly motivated, self-starting, and confident individual with excellent, genuine, and trustworthy interpersonal skills. The City is seeking progressive candidates committed to excellence in delivery of fire/EMS. Specialized Response and Emergency Management services. The current Fire Chief is retiring after a successful career with the department.

- Including the Fire Chief, the Wheaton Fire Department is staffed by 38 full time personnel, 19 contract personnel who staff their ALS/EMS response and transport provider services, one part time Administrative Assistant, and one part time Emergency Management Specialist.
- Firefighters and Lieutenants are represented by the International Association of Firefighters Local 3706.
- The command staff consists of the Fire Chief, three Assistant Chief-Shift Commanders (24/48), one Assistant Chief-Administration with oversight of Training/Risk Management (40 hr), and one EMS/Community Risk Reduction Manager (40 hr). Each shift has a Shift Commander, 3 Fire Lieutenants, 6 Firefighter/EMT-B's, and 6 Paramedics.
- The department responded to 6135 total calls for service in 2021. The Wheaton Fire Department is a founding member of the West Suburban Fire Rescue Alliance consisting of six Departments who participate in functional cooperation for all hazards training and response. The Department is also a member of MABAS Division 12 (Mutual Aid Box Alarm System) and Ducomm 9-1-1 Dispatch.
- The City encompasses 11.43 square miles from providing modern fire/EMS services from 3 fire stations.
- Union Pacific runs 20-25 daily freight trains through Wheaton. Union Pacific (UP) runs freight and Metra commuter trains through Wheaton (60 commuter trains a day during the workweek; 353 commuter trains a week). The fire department holds an ISO Class 2 insurance rating.
- The City is seeking an experienced, innovative, collaborative fire/EMS 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 that 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 provide an understanding of 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 within IDLH conditions
- 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:

- Shall possess a bachelor's degree in Public Safety Administration or related field from an accredited college or university. A master's degree preferred.
- The position requires 10 years of firefighter experience and employee supervision.
- All requirements of 65 ILCS 5/10-1-7.3
- Illinois EMT-B Certification
- Ability to wear Department self-contained breathing apparatus and maintain compliance with respiratory requirements.
- Candidate's successful completion of the Executive Fire Officer Program offered by the National Fire Academy, and or Chief Fire Officer Designation is desired.
- Reside within ten (10) miles of the City of Wheaton and ability to timely respond to major emergency incidents.

The annual starting salary range for this position is \$129,730 to \$181,622 depending upon qualifications. The City of Wheaton also offers an attractive benefits package. Candidates interested in applying for the position should submit their résumé and cover letter electronically at www.GovHRjobs.com, along with contact information for five (5) work-related and/or professional references by July 5, 2022 to consultant T.E. Sashko, Vice-President, GovHR USA. Questions may be directed to Tim Sashko at (847)380-3240 x123.

The City of Wheaton is an equal opportunity employer.