

CITY OF BILLINGS, MT FIRE CHIEF

“Our Family Serving Your Family”



Why Lead the Billings Fire Department



Joining the Billings Fire Department as Fire Chief means stepping into a leadership role in one of Montana’s most dynamic and growing cities. Billings is the state’s largest community, a regional hub for healthcare, commerce, and outdoor adventure – a city with both deep history and forward momentum. The next Fire Chief will guide a strong, committed department with modern challenges, supportive elected leadership, and an engaged community that values public safety.

COMMUNITY OVERVIEW

Billings is Montana's largest city, offering a unique blend of historic railroad-town character, modern amenities, and diverse neighborhoods. Situated along the Yellowstone River and framed by the Rimrocks, the community provides scenic beauty, strong economic activity, and easy access to outdoor recreation. As the regional hub for retail, healthcare, energy, finance, and logistics, Billings maintains one of the most resilient economies in the Northern Rockies. The city also anchors the state's premier medical corridor serving Montana, Wyoming, and the Dakotas, with Intermountain Health - St. Vincent Regional Hospital advancing Montana's largest capital project: a 14-story, roughly 737,000-square-foot facility valued between \$900 million and \$1 billion. Residents further benefit from exceptional outdoor opportunities, a well-established school system, and multiple higher-education options that support a strong and growing regional workforce.

Population
120,000

City Limits
45 square
miles

2027
Budget
\$446.7 M

Citywide
FTEs
1,100

Fire
FTEs
183.6

THE CITY

The City of Billings is a full-service municipal organization responsible for delivering essential public services to Montana's largest urban area. Led by the Mayor, City Council, and City Administrator, the City oversees departments ranging from Police, Fire, Public Works, Transit, and the Airport to Planning, Finance, Information Technology, Human Resources, Parks and Recreation, and the Library. The City manages extensive infrastructure – including water, wastewater, stormwater systems, streets, and public facilities – while maintaining a balanced budget supported by taxes, assessments, service fees, and grants. Through long-range planning, capital investment, and sustainable financial management, the City ensures reliable public services, promotes safe and healthy neighborhoods, and supports regional economic vitality.



About the Billings Fire Department

Leadership Team | Suppression & Operations | Training, Prevention & Support | Emergency Communications (911)

The Billings Fire Department is a full-service, all-hazards agency dedicated to protecting the residents, businesses, and visitors of Montana's largest city. The department provides structural and wildland firefighting, advanced life support EMS, technical rescue, hazardous materials response, community risk reduction, and fire prevention services.

Mission Statement

The Billings Fire Department is dedicated to utilizing the latest education, methods, and technology in providing outstanding emergency services.



Vision Statement

The Billings Fire Department aspires to be the finest provider of emergency services.

Department Structure

The organization is led by the Fire Chief, supported by an experienced command team and specialized divisions that ensure high-quality service delivery across fire suppression, EMS, fire prevention, and emergency communications.



Budget Overview

The Billings Fire Department's FY27 budget totals \$32.7 million, supporting personnel, fleet modernization, facility upgrades, and enhanced emergency services across eleven facilities citywide. As an all-hazards organization, the department protects life, property, and the environment through fire suppression, emergency medical services, hazardous materials mitigation, technical rescue, and comprehensive prevention programs. These include fire and arson investigations, public education, code enforcement, plan reviews, and community risk reduction initiatives serving both the City of Billings and the Billings Urban Fire Service Area (BUFSA) in Yellowstone County. Built around four essential operational pillars - Fire Suppression, Emergency Medical Services, Fire Prevention, and Emergency Communications - the department continues adapting to the evolving needs of a growing community. With an approved FY27 staffing level of 183.6 FTE, and a budgeting philosophy that prioritizes investments first in personnel, then fleet, and then facilities, the Billings Fire Department is positioned for long-term growth, modernization, and exceptional service delivery.

Strategic Initiatives

- Committed to forward-thinking initiatives that strengthen service delivery, enhance operational resiliency and prepare for future growth
- Advancing staffing for Station 8
- Planning for Station 9 to support high-growth districts
- Renovating aging fire stations through a multi-year strategy
- Investing in technology upgrades to support NextGen 911 compatibility
- Exploring innovative capabilities such as a Real-Time Intel Center and Drone First Responder program
- Expanding EMS oversight to ensure consistent, high-quality care across the city
- Reimplementing the Crisis Response Program to better serve vulnerable populations

Leadership Profile

- Experienced leader in modern fire, EMS, and emergency communications operations
- Strategic thinker with strong command presence and exceptional communication skills
- Builds trust through collaboration, transparency, and relationship-driven leadership
- Guides a large metropolitan department through growth, innovation, and modernization
- Strengthens organizational culture and sets clear strategic direction
- Champions operational excellence, facility upgrades, and system modernization
- Empowers senior managers and supports professional development at all levels
- Forms strong partnerships with City leadership, regional agencies, and the community
- Balances big-picture vision with hands-on operational experience to maintain high performance

Required Qualifications and Skills

- Bachelor's degree in public administration, emergency management, or fire science
- Twelve (12) or more years of combined education and experience in the areas of personnel management, fire suppression and prevention, and incident command
- Experience with city government and knowledge of department function operations
- Must be able to pass a pre-employment drug test and a State and Federal criminal background check
- Strong interpersonal skills

Preferred Qualifications and Skills

- Master's degree in public administration or related field
- Chief Fire Officer (CFO) designation

Compensation & Benefits

The City of Billings offers a competitive salary range of \$138,045 to \$176,217 annually, reflecting Step 1 through Step 6 of a seven-step pay scale. Starting salary will be based on qualifications and experience.

The City also provides a comprehensive benefits package and offers up to a \$10,000 relocation allowance.

How to Apply

Please submit your Cover Letter with Resume to hr@billingsmt.gov

First Review: September 21, 2026



Resources

[FY 2027 Budget](#)

[Organizational Chart](#)

[Benefits at a Glance](#)

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