



# *The City of Lafayette Louisiana*

*invites your interest in the position of*

# Fire Chief





## About Lafayette

Lafayette, with a **parish population of approximately 250,000**, is a vibrant city located in southwestern Louisiana known for its rich cultural heritage, thriving economy, and dynamic community spirit. The city is spread over **53.3 square miles** and stands as a hub of Acadiana, a region celebrated for its Cajun and Creole influences.

Lafayette has garnered national attention for its economic vitality, boasting significant contributions from industries like healthcare, education, and technology. Recent accolades for Lafayette include “Best Place to Live in Louisiana” by US News & World Report, and “Top Place to Travel” by TravelLemming.com and was one of Southern Living’s “15 Friendliest Cities in the South.” These along with recognition for its cultural festivals and culinary scene continue to draw visitors from around the globe. Lafayette’s strategic location along the Vermilion River enhances its charm, offering a blend of historic architecture and modern amenities. As a key economic driver in Louisiana, the city continues to foster innovation and growth while preserving its unique cultural identity.



### FAST FACTS

- Founded in 1821
- #4 Populous City in Louisiana
- 15,000+ Operating Businesses
- 1M+ Tourists Per Year
- Lafayette Parish School System (LPSS); 47 public schools serving more than 30,000 students, 4,000 employees
- Home to 2nd largest university in LA: University of Louisiana at Lafayette (16,000+ students)
- 600K+ Trade Market Population



Lafayette Consolidated Government, City Hall



Festival Internationale de Louisiane, Downtown Lafayette

## City-Parish Government

Lafayette has a “President-Council” form of government. The Lafayette City-Parish Charter Commission adopted a Home Rule Charter in 2020, superseding the previous administrative guidelines set in 1996.

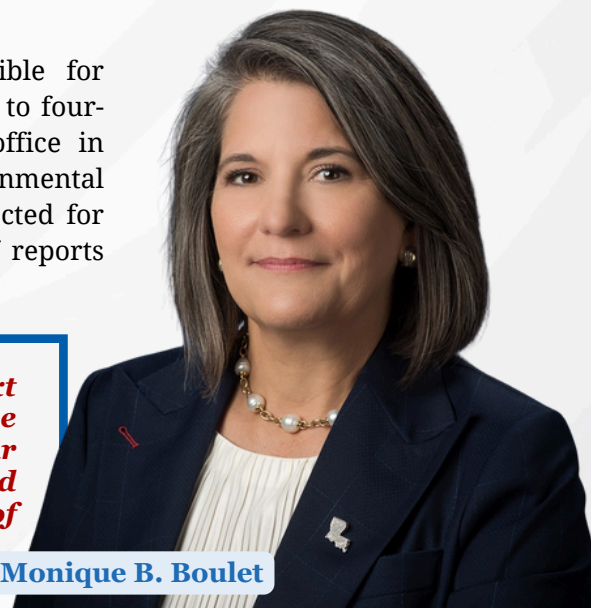
The Mayor-President serves as the chief executive officer responsible for overseeing the administration of both the city and parish and is elected to four-year terms. The current Mayor-President, Monique B. Boulet, took office in January 2024, and has since led with a focus on public safety, governmental transparency, and quality of life. The City Council’s 5 members are elected for staggered four-year terms from single-member districts. The Fire Chief reports directly to the Mayor-President.

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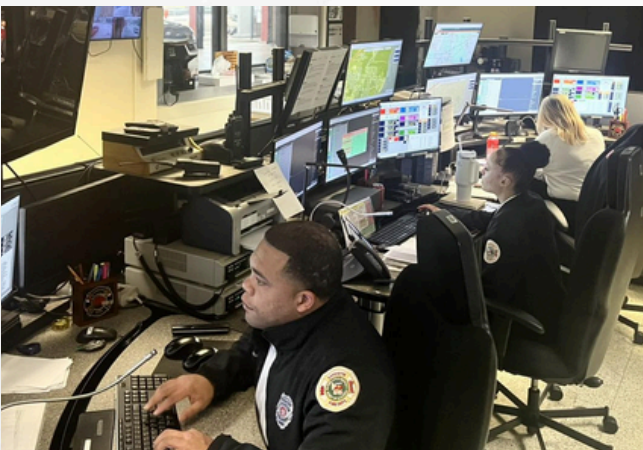
*This is a pivotal time in our city’s history as we select the next leader of the Lafayette Fire Department. For more than three decades, Fire Chief Benoit’s steady leadership kept our department among the best in Louisiana and the nation, and we will build on that stability to carry this tradition of excellence into the future.*

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Mayor-President Monique B. Boulet







## The Fire Department

The Lafayette Fire Department (LFD) serves as the primary fire protection and emergency response agency for Lafayette, Louisiana, with a **Class 2 Rating protecting more than 135,000 citizens over 54 square miles**. Committed to safeguarding lives, property, and the environment, LFD operates under a mission to provide rapid, professional, and effective fire suppression, rescue, and emergency medical services. With a proud history dating back to 1907, LFD is staffed by highly trained firefighters who undergo continuous education and specialized training to ensure readiness for any emergency. The department prioritizes fire prevention and public education, offering programs, inspections, and outreach to reduce risks and strengthen community resilience. Through its dedication to service, safety, and excellence, the Lafayette Fire Department remains a trusted pillar of protection for the residents of Lafayette.



### OPERATIONS OVERVIEW

- **288 Personnel Across 6 Divisions**
  - *Emergency Operations*
  - *Hazmat*
  - *Communications*
  - *Fire Prevention*
  - *Training*
  - *Administration*
- **14 Fire Stations + 1 Training Facility**
  - *13 responding, 1 administration*
- **\$37.5M FY24-25 Operating Budget**

## The Ideal Candidate

The City of Lafayette is seeking an accomplished and respected leader for its next Fire Chief. This position offers a unique opportunity to guide and enhance fire protection, prevention, and emergency rescue services for the City of Lafayette. The ideal candidate will have a proven record of leadership in the fire service, with extensive experience in fire suppression, prevention, rescue operations, and department administration. Candidates must demonstrate a commitment to modernizing operations, advancing training programs, and ensuring effective resource management, while upholding public trust, accountability, and the highest standards of professionalism.



## Key Position Responsibilities

- Plans, organizes, and directs comprehensive fire protection, prevention, and emergency rescue programs; evaluates the community's needs for financial, equipment, and personnel resources.
- Supervises directly, or through subordinate supervisors, all department personnel; takes personal command of fire suppression or rescue operations during major emergencies.
- Consults with top City officials and departmental leadership to develop operational and administrative policies that ensure maximum protection of life and property.
- Oversees the preparation, analysis, and maintenance of departmental records and reports to assess needs and guide decision-making.
- Directs the preparation of the annual operating budget and capital requests; exercises purchasing and budgetary control and reviews specifications for new equipment and apparatus to ensure operational alignment.
- Directs the development of training programs to enhance the skills, safety, and effectiveness of personnel.
- Represents the fire department before civic organizations and at regional, state, and national meetings and conferences to advance the City's public safety priorities.



## Qualifications

Applicants must possess at least a Bachelor's degree in business administration, public administration, fire science, fire administration, or a related field, and have at least 10 years of responsible fire service experience, including a minimum of 3 years in an administrative or supervisory role. An Associate degree in fire science, fire administration, or a related fire management curriculum is acceptable if accompanied by the same experience requirements. Fire service experience must include fire suppression and rescue operations and may also include work in prevention, investigation, training, or other areas of department operations and management. Unless otherwise specified, **all requirements must be met before admission to examination.** Applicants must also meet all requirements of the Municipal Fire and Police Civil Service Law, including being a citizen of the United States and having no felony convictions. For a complete list of qualifications, please visit the Careers page at [lafayettela.gov](http://lafayettela.gov).



## Compensation

The annual salary is \$140-144K (DOE), per FY24-25/25-26 council-approved budgets. The city also offers an excellent benefits package including health and life insurance policies and retirement via Municipal Police Employees Retirement System (MPERS).

## How to Apply

Qualified candidates are invited to **submit their resume, a cover letter, and professional references to [applicant@lafayettela.gov](mailto:applicant@lafayettela.gov)**. Include "Lafayette Fire Chief" in the job interest subject line. Lafayette Consolidated Government is an Equal Opportunity Employer. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, age, religion, ethnic origin, sexual orientation, or disability status.