

# Fire Chief

## Lower Valley Fire District

Located in Fruita, CO



Salary Range: \$144,038.72- \$149,049.88  
(Depending on Qualifications)

Seeking a professional fire service commander  
with operational and administrative expertise.

KRW Associates, LLC is assisting with this executive search.

Application materials are to be submitted to:

[apply@KRW-Associates.com](mailto:apply@KRW-Associates.com)

Deadline: August 19, 2024 (5:00 PM MST)



# The Fire District

The Lower Valley Fire District (LVFD), established in 1980, is located on Colorado’s beautiful western slope in Mesa County. The District’s headquarters is housed at Station 31 which is located in the City of Fruita, Colorado, approximately 10 miles northwest of Grand Junction and 250 miles west of Denver. The satellite station, Station 32, is five miles west in the community of Loma, Colorado.



The stations are staffed 24/7 by career and part-time firefighters who work a 48/96 schedule, with three rotating shifts. Current staffing includes the Fire Chief, the Deputy Fire Chief, the Fire Marshal, and three rotating shifts staffed each by two (2) Captains, one (1) Engineer, two (2) Firefighter/EMT’s and two (2) Firefighter/Paramedics. Administrative staff includes an Officer Manager and an ambulance Billing Specialist. The Chief reports to a five-member Board of Directors, who are elected by the residents of the District.

Approximately 25,000 people reside within the boundaries of the LVFD, with nearly half living within a five-mile radius of Station 31. Station 31 houses three (3) ambulances (one being reserve); one (1) rescue engine, one (1) 75-foot ladder, one (1) brush truck, two (2) water tenders, two (2) river boats, one (1) ATV and an antique parade truck. Apparatus operating out of Station 32 include one (1) water tender/ structure engine , one (1) ambulance and one (1) brush truck.

The District’s overall coverage area for fire and EMS services is approximately 400 square miles. The LVFD also contracts with Garfield County, CO and Grand County, UT for Fire and EMS services. The history of the local fire service dates back to 1922 when the Town of Fruita formed the Fruita Volunteer Fire Department. Later, in 1973, the LVFD and the Town of Fruita organized a fire district. In 1980, the District separated from the Town and became its own separate entity. In March of 2021, the District was awarded ISO Class 3.





# The Surrounding Area

Fruita and the surrounding area offer many attractions and amenities that make this a great area to live, work and raise a family. With nearly 250 days of sunshine per year and mild winters, locals and visitors can enjoy a variety of outdoor activities year-round. The area is a popular destination for those looking to hike, mountain bike, camp, fish, golf and river raft. There are also a number of scenic drives that showcase the beauty of the area, such as the Colorado National Monument Park, or the Dinosaur Diamond Byway. Other local attractions include outdoor festivals, farmers markets, shopping and museums.



This area offers an attractive life-style for those who enjoy the small-town and rural atmosphere but with easy access to larger-city amenities. Families are served by the Mesa County Valley School District 51, for grades K-12. This is the largest school district between Salt Lake City and Denver, with over 20,000 students and 3,500 staff and 46 different schools and programs. The Colorado Mesa University is located nearby in Grand Junction and offers 120+ undergraduate programs.



Medical facilities include Family Health West, a 25-bed hospital in located in Fruita, and nearby Saint Mary’s Hospital and Community Hospital located in Grand Junction.

The Fruita Community Center serves as a gathering place where residents enjoy the gym, running track, fitness area, indoor playground, and library. Finally, locals and tourists alike also enjoy being close to Colorado’s wine and orchard country.

For more information about Fruita, go to: <https://gofruita.com>.



# The Position

The Fire Chief is the District's Chief Executive Officer. This position is responsible to manage, supervise, plan, and coordinate the activities and operations of all aspects of the Fire District including, Operations, Training, Fire Prevention and EMS. The Chief coordinates activities with career/part-time staff, outside agencies, and the public; and provides staff assistance on highly complex matters to the Board of Directors. The Fire Chief works under the general supervision of the Board of Directors for the LVFD.

This is a 40 hour a week position but the Chief is expected to respond on large incidents (per the District's Standard Operating Procedures) and smaller incidents depending on shift staffing levels and if it is a 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> alarm/call.

While there is no residency requirement, the Chief is encouraged to live within the district boundaries, to help ensure appropriate response times.



# The Ideal Candidate

- ◆ Has strong and demonstrated leadership skills .
- ◆ Has operational expertise and is skilled at training and mentoring fire service crew members.
- ◆ Is a visionary and strategic thinker who will plan for the future.
- ◆ Is a collaborator who works well with the district personnel, community members, and public safety partners.
- ◆ Embraces a mindset of continual training to help ensure the safety of the crew and the public.
- ◆ Is fiscally responsible.



# Qualifications

- ◆ Bachelor's degree from an accredited college/university with a major in Fire Science, Business Administration, Public Administration, or related field, or equivalent and relevant experience.
- ◆ Colorado State Certification Fire Officer II
- ◆ Colorado State Certification as Firefighter II
- ◆ Colorado Emergency Medical Technician – Basic or higher
- ◆ Wildland S130-S190
- ◆ Holds a current Colorado driver's license (or is able to obtain one upon hire).
- ◆ Experience working at the rank of Battalion Chief or higher, with at least eight (8) years of experience with a comparable size fire district or department.
- ◆ Must have the ability to maintain effective working relationships with paid/part-time staff and the board members.
- ◆ Must have considerable experience in all phases of fire department operations and training, and have thorough knowledge of modern firefighting, hazardous material control rescue and EMS functions and fire prevention practices.

## Preferred:

- ◆ Center for Public Safety Excellence (CPSE) Chief Fire Officer (CFO)
- ◆ S215 Wildland Urban Interface
- ◆ National Fire Academy Executive Fire Officer Program (NFA-EFOP)



## Summary of Benefits\*

- ◆ **Health Insurance** (employee and family premium paid by District)
- ◆ **Dental, Vision, and Supplemental Life Insurance** (available for purchase)
- ◆ **Sick leave accrual- 4 hours per month**
- ◆ **Vacation accrual-10 hours per month, accrues for years of service**
- ◆ **Holidays- 10 paid holidays per year**
- ◆ **Employee Assistance Program (EAP)**
- ◆ **Retirement Benefits-**
  - ◆ **Defined Benefit Plan through the Fire & Police Pension Association of CO (FPPA)**
- OR
- ◆ **401 through Colorado Retirement Association (CRA)**
- ◆ **Disability and Survivor Benefits through the FPPA**
- ◆ **Clothing Allowance- \$500 per year**
- ◆ **A take-home vehicle**
- ◆ **A district-paid cell phone**

\*Benefits may be subject to change at Board's discretion.





# Opportunities & Challenges

- ◆ **Strategic Plan Update** – The Chief will have the opportunity to work with the Board to update the existing Strategic Plan and propel the District forward.
- ◆ **Revenue Stabilization** – The State of Colorado targets Special Districts to reduce taxpayer’s burden which has resulted from unprecedented property value increases. The Chief will be responsible for working with the Board to develop a strategy to address budget challenges while maintaining appropriate service levels.
- ◆ **Cost of Living** – The average home value in the City of Fruita is \$424,175, up approximately 1.2% over 2023. The housing market impacts recruiting and retention efforts.
- ◆ **Insurance Service Office (ISO) Rating**- Work to maintain and improve current Class III rating.
- ◆ **Community Paramedicine** – Build on the District’s newly implemented Community Paramedic / Critical Care Paramedic program to better meet the demands of a larger retired population and to strategize how we look at EMS responses.
- ◆ **Eastern District Growth Projection** – Research land options for additional station/training facility and personnel/equipment for staffing.





## Apply Online

Go to: [Open Positions | KRW Associates \(krw-associates.com\)](https://www.krw-associates.com)

Click on the [Position Information](#) then [Apply Here](#) at the bottom of the posting.

## Or By Email

Email your cover letter, resume and contact information for six professional references

to: [apply@krw-associates.com](mailto:apply@krw-associates.com).

**Deadline: Monday, August 19, 2024 (5:00 PM MST)**

## Questions?

KRW Associates LLC is assisting the Lower Valley Fire District with this search.

Questions should be directed to: [info@krw-associates.com](mailto:info@krw-associates.com) or

KRW Managing Partner, Lorne Kramer | 719-310-8960,

KRW Senior Associate, Mark Collins | 307-460-1941 or

KRW Senior Associate , Gina McGrail | 303-249-9572.

The Lower Valley Fire District is an equal opportunity employer.

