

# Deputy Chief

## Lower Valley Fire District

Located in Fruita, CO



Hiring Range: \$125,797.55 - \$131,327.12  
(Depending on Qualifications)

Seeking a professional fire service officer  
with operational and training expertise.

Resume and Cover Letter are to be submitted to:

[mkatzenberger@lvfdfire.org](mailto:mkatzenberger@lvfdfire.org)

Or dropped off at the administrative office at 168 N. Mesa St  
Monday- Friday 8:00am- 4:30pm

Deadline: November 15, 2024 (4:30 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 a reserve); one (1) rescue engine, one (1) 75-foot aerial, 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 an ambulance, structure engine, brush truck, and ATV.

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 Position

The Deputy Chief is responsible for managing, supervising, planning, and coordinating the activities and operations of various aspects of the Fire District including, operations and training. The Deputy Chief coordinates activities with career and part-time staff, outside agencies, and the public; and aids the Fire Chief to resolve complex matters. The Deputy Chief works under the general guidance and direction of the Fire Chief. This is a 40 hour a week position, however the Deputy Chief is expected to respond on large incidents (per the District's Standard Operating Procedures) and smaller incidents depending on shift staffing levels or in the event of a 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> call. This position is FLSA Exempt.

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



# The Ideal Candidate

- ◆ Has a proven history of 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

- ◆ Colorado State Certification Fire Officer I
- ◆ Colorado State Certification as Firefighter II  
Colorado State Certification HazMat Ops
- ◆ 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 Company Officer 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:

- ◆ Colorado State Certification Fire Officer II
- ◆ S215 Wildland Urban Interface
- ◆ Higher education experience, preferable in Fire Science, Public Administration, or Business Management

**\*Please see the Full Job Description for additional responsibilities and qualification\***



## 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

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

