

FINANCE DIRECTOR



 Recruitment Services Provided by
Ralph Andersen & Associates

OAKDALE • CALIFORNIA

THE COMMUNITY

The City of Oakdale is situated in the heart of California's Central Valley in Stanislaus County, 15 miles northeast of Modesto at the base of the foothills. Primarily an agricultural community, Oakdale is home to several large manufacturing firms including Sconza Candy Company, A.L. Gilbert Company, and ConAgra Foods. The City is known as the "Cowboy Capital of the World", offering a taste of the Old West with its historic town, boutique shopping, and unique events. With a population of just under 24,000, Oakdale enjoys a small-town charm. The City has affordable land prices with many attractive residential neighborhoods and an abundance of residential building sites. In-city recreation includes an 18-hole country club golf course, community recreation swimming pool, and numerous city and recreational parks. Oakdale is a great city whose citizens, many of which are long term residents, embrace a strong sense of community and an outstanding quality of life.

The City of Oakdale is considered the gateway to Yosemite National Park. Yosemite National Park embraces almost 1,200 square miles of scenic wild lands set aside in 1890. The park ranges from 2,000 feet above sea level to more than 13,000 feet and major attractions include an alpine wilderness, three groves of Giant Sequoias, and the glacially carved Yosemite Valley with impressive waterfalls, cliffs and unusual rock formations. The Stanislaus River winds through the town offering opportunities for water sports and fishing. Nearby lakes are well suited for boating and water skiing. Camping, hiking, hunting, fishing, and skiing are available within an hour's drive in the Sierras.

For more information about the City of Oakdale, please visit www.oakdalegov.com



GOVERNING STRUCTURE AND OVERVIEW

The City of Oakdale operates under the Council-Manager form of government. The City has a five-member City Council, including a directly elected Mayor. The Mayor and Council Members are each elected for overlapping four-year terms.

The City Council unanimously selected Mr. Jerry Ramar as City Manager in July 2025. Mr. Ramar has over two decades of public service experience and a deep commitment to the Oakdale Community. Prior to his appointment, Mr. Ramar served as the Chief of Police for the City.

THE CITY ORGANIZATION

The City Manager serves as the chief administrative officer of the municipal organization and is responsible for all operations, including hiring and dismissing City staff. Oakdale is a full-service City, with 130 employees and an annual budget of \$52 million. The City maintains healthy reserves, adhering to a robust 40% General Fund Reserve Policy. For further reference, the detailed City Budget is available [here](#).

The City delivers municipal services through four departments: Administration, Police, Finance and Public Services. Oakdale contracts out for Fire services, through the Modesto Fire Department (MFD). City Council, management, and staff all work in partnership together, which contributes to a healthy working environment.

FINANCE DEPARTMENT

The Finance Department is responsible for managing the City's finances, including accounts payable, accounts receivable, investments, purchasing, cash receipts, and payroll. The Department provides quality service to the City's customers, including the preparation of the City's utility bills, monthly statements, and business licenses.

The Finance Department manages and maintains the City's financial records in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) and in compliance with state and federal laws. The Department is committed to developing and maintaining effective and efficient financial planning, reporting, and support in order to provide the City Council, City Manager and other City officials with financial information on a timely and meaningful basis.



OVERVIEW OF POSITION

The Finance Director is a vital member of the City's executive leadership team and is responsible for planning, organizing, directing, monitoring, and reviewing the activities and operations of the Finance Department.

This position calls for a forward-thinking and results-driven leader with demonstrated expertise in public sector financial management and public administration. The Finance Director must have a strong understanding of public sector regulations, funding mechanisms, and compliance requirements. They must be capable of exercising independent judgment in establishing efficient and effective financial processes, while also providing sound policy guidance and fiscal recommendations to City decision-makers.

In addition to technical proficiency and operating at a strategic level in a municipal organization, the ideal candidate will possess superior leadership, team management, and interpersonal skills. Personal attributes should also demonstrate a commitment to employee development, ethical financial practices, and continuous improvement. A collaborative and inclusive leadership style is key, someone who can foster a culture of transparency, accountability, and service excellence across the Department and throughout the organization. The ability to clearly communicate complex financial concepts to both technical and non-technical audiences, including elected officials, community stakeholders, and City staff, is crucial. Public presentation skills are key component of this role, and the Finance Director will serve as a public representative of the City.

IDEAL CANDIDATE

The ideal candidate will be a strong and focused leader who can ensure the City's financial strategies and resources are aligned to support long-term goals and visions. They will have an established track record of being a thoughtful, diplomatic, and dynamic leader and advocate with experience working in an engaged environment and community.

The successful candidate will:

- Be an effective and credible written and verbal communicator with well-developed political acumen.
- Be a seasoned leader who can effectively manage and mentor a team.
- Have experience leading financial system implementations and process improvements to enhance accuracy, efficiency, and transparency.
- Demonstrate a strong commitment to ethical conduct, transparency, and accountability.
- Have genuine dedication to public service and a passion for contributing to the community's financial well-being.
- Have strong problem-solving and critical thinking skills to identify solutions to complex organizational and budget challenges while continuing to meet project deadlines and policy goals.

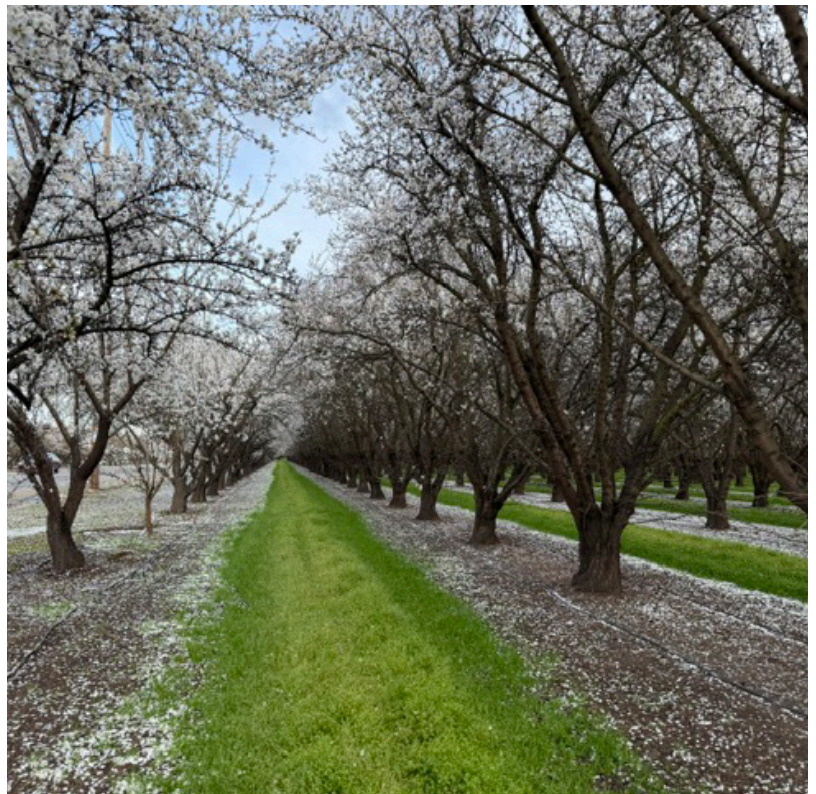
QUALIFICATIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

Education: Bachelor's degree from an accredited four-year college or university in Accounting, Finance, Business Administration, Public Administration or related field. A Master's degree in Accounting, Finance, or Business Administration is highly desirable.

Experience: Five years progressively responsible related experience in financial management and administration, including four years of high-level responsibility in public finance is required. Specific and broad-based financial management and budgeting experience working directly in a municipal organization is strongly desired.

Other experience and personal attributes desired include:

- Exceptional writing and communication skills, including having a welcoming style; comfortable with public presentation skills and community engagement.
- Forward-thinking with strong financial knowledge and understanding of current and future issues that impact municipal organizations.
- Knowledge and experience in California is beneficial, although all highly qualified applicants will be considered.



COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS

An at-will employment contract will be offered for this executive level position. The City will offer a competitive salary with excellent benefits. The current salary range for the Finance Director position is \$150,301 to \$206,357. Placement within this range is negotiable and dependent upon experience and qualifications. The City of Oakdale also offers an attractive benefits package which includes the following:

Retirement: The City participates in the California Public Employees' Retirement Systems (CalPERS). The retirement formula will be based on appointment date and membership status with CalPERS, e.g. 2% @ 62 for New Members (average of three highest years) or 2.0% @ 60 for Classic Members (single highest year) with less than a six-month break in service from another CalPERS or CalPERS reciprocal agency. The City does not participate in Social Security.

A 457 (b) Deferred Contribution Plan is also available for voluntary contributions, with a negotiable City contribution and match. This retirement savings plan allows employees to save funds on a tax-free basis for retirement.

Other Benefits include:

- Medical/Dental/Vision – City Contribution \$1,200 monthly plus 50% of cost over that amount.
- Vacation Accrual – 80 hours per year (starting), increasing by years of service
- Management Leave – 80 hours per year
- Sick Leave Accrual – 96 hours per year
- Holidays – 14 days per year (to include one “floating” holiday)
- Life Insurance – \$75,000
- City Paid Long-Term Disability Insurance
- Technology Allowance
- City is on a 9/80 schedule (every other Friday off)



APPLICATION AND SELECTION PROCESS

Interested candidates should apply by submitting a compelling cover letter and comprehensive resume via email to apply@ralphandersen.com no later than **Monday, September 21, 2026**. This is a confidential recruitment and will be handled accordingly throughout the various stages of the process. Confidential inquiries are welcomed and should be directed to Sabrina Landreth, Ralph Andersen & Associates, at sabrina@ralphandersen.com or (916) 630-4900.



The City of Oakdale is an Equal Opportunity Employer and values diversity at all levels of its workforce.

www.oakdalegov.com