



## *Gateway to the Redwoods*

111 E. Commercial Street  
Willits, California 95490  
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[www.cityofwillits.org](http://www.cityofwillits.org)

### **Chief of Police**

**Salary Class & Designation**.....MG CP - \$147,024 - \$178,708  
**FLSA Status**.....Exempt  
**Employment Status**.....Unclassified  
**Reports to**.....City Manager

The City of Willits, California seeks a proven law enforcement leader with exceptional communication skills to be the next Chief of the Willits Police Department. The Chief will demonstrate unwavering integrity, collaborate with Mendocino criminal justice partners, make themselves visible to the community and must always be thinking of ways to improve the Police Department through technology, conventional innovation and people. The Chief will be an approachable, outstanding role model, consummate law enforcement professional and a willing mentor. The City of Willits is a General Law City governed by an elected City Council. The Chief of Police reports directly to the City Manager.

The City of Willits, incorporated in 1888, plays a central and vital role in the surrounding region, with a population of around 5,000. Just to the north, the unincorporated area of Brooktrails, home to approximately 3,700 residents, relies heavily on Willits for its economic and social needs. The majority of Brooktrails residents shop, dine, and work in Willits, underscoring the city's significance as a hub for commerce and employment. As the primary source of essential retail outlets and professional services, Willits serves not only its own population but also acts as a critical resource for the broader region, making it the economic heart of the area.

Willits hosts the Annual Frontier Days event. Frontier Days is a rodeo as well as other associated activities usually occurring near the Fourth of July. There is a longstanding relationship between Willits and Frontiers Day with the upcoming year 2026 being the 100th year anniversary of the event.

Located in the heart of Mendocino County at the edge of one of California's largest redwood forests, Willits provides incomparable access to the beauty of northern California. Outdoor recreation opportunities abound including camping, hiking, hunting and fishing. The breathtaking California coastline is a short 40-minute drive away, offering surfing and other ocean activities. A small town with a big personality, Willits offers a tight-knit community, affordable land, and a slower way

of life.

The Little Lake Fire Protection District provides services for the City of Willits. Public schools are administrated by the Willits Unified School District. There is an elementary school, middle school and high school in the City.

The Willits Police Department is a full-service law enforcement agency including a 911 Dispatch center and is comprised of 12 sworn members and nine professional employees (when fully staffed). Critical tasks for the incoming Police Chief will be recruitment, improving radio communications, and dispatching capabilities, training, and mentoring their staff at all levels. The Chief will also need to identify the future leaders of the Department. Management enjoys a strong, cooperative relationship with the single employee union, and all members of the Department are excited to build their future together.

California Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training certification will be required. Any combination of education, training, and experience which provides the required knowledge, skills, and abilities to perform the job is qualifying. Possession of an Associate or Arts or Science Degree or higher educational achievement is desirable. The minimum experience requirement is broad, extensive experience in all major phases of municipal police work including at least three years in a responsible supervisory capacity in a municipal police department or sheriff's department will be considered for qualification. This would be an excellent opportunity for a proven law enforcement leader to step into the position of Department Head and shape the future of the Police Department. The Chief of Police will have a unique opportunity to mold the Department's culture, enhance community engagement, and implement innovative strategies to improve public safety. As a leader, this role offers the chance to directly influence the direction and growth of the Department while fostering a positive, effective, and responsive police force.

The Chief of Police must live within a geographic area of reasonable response time to the Police Department; residing within City limits is preferred.

The salary range for this position is \$147,024 - \$178,708 annually. Actual salary will be based on the experience of the successful candidate. Excellent benefits are provided.

- Paid Holidays - 14 days per year.
- Sick Leave earned at the rate of 12 days per year.
- Health, Dental, Vision Insurance – 100% paid by the City.
- Vacation – 80 hours per year after one year of service.
- Management Leave – 100 hours per year.
- CalPERS Retirement-Safety Classic 3% @50; Safety New 2.7%@57.

- Uniform Allowance - \$1,000 per year.
- Automobile Allowance – Take Home vehicle provided.

If you wish to be considered for the position, please submit your cover letter and resume to City of Willits Human Resources at:

<mailto:kreitzel@cityofwillits.org>

City of Willits

111 E. Commercial St.

Willits, CA 95490

(707) 459-7176

Additional information can be found at the City of Willits website:

<https://ca-willits.civicplus.com/>