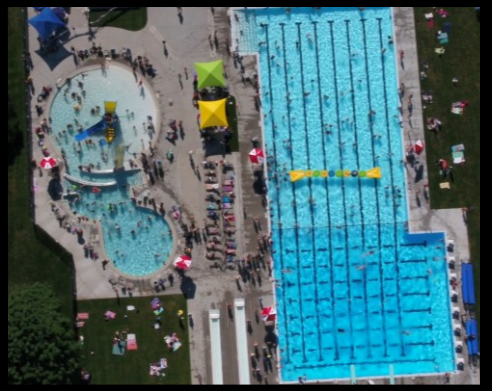




Washington

FINANCE DIRECTOR

\$153,993 - \$187,356

Apply by
August 14, 2026
(First Review, Open Until Filled.)

***P*ROTHMAN**



WHY APPLY?



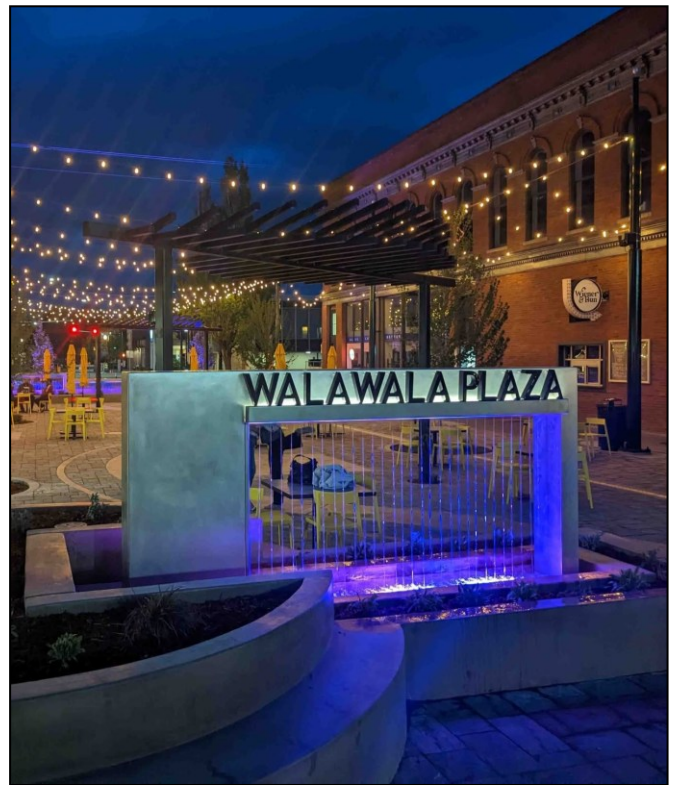
This is an excellent opportunity for an experienced municipal finance professional to join a well-established full-service city in one of Washington's most distinctive and highly regarded communities.

The City of Walla Walla offers a stable organizational environment, and the opportunity to work alongside a collaborative leadership team.

The next Finance Director will play a central role in maintaining the City's financial stability, supporting preparation of the 2027-2028 biennial budget, strengthening financial systems and reporting, and providing sound guidance to the City Manager, City Council, departments, staff, and the community. For a leader who values public service, accountability, teamwork, and the ability to make a visible impact, Walla Walla offers a compelling combination of professional opportunity, organizational stability, and exceptional quality of life.

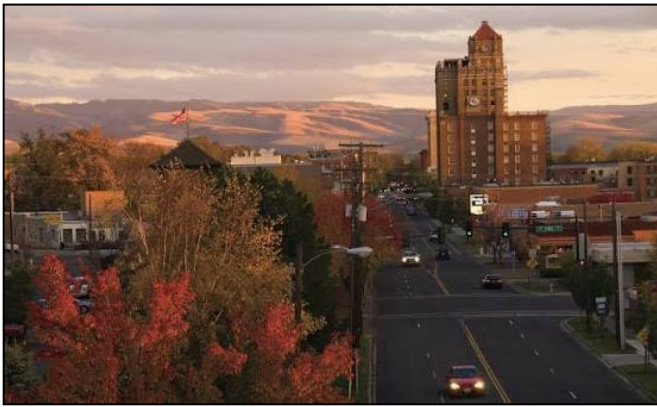
THE COMMUNITY

Located in southeastern Washington at the foot of the Blue Mountains, Walla Walla is a vibrant community of approximately 35,000 residents within city limits and serves as the urban center and county seat of Walla Walla County. Incorporated in 1862 and located on the ancestral lands of the Cayuse, Umatilla, and Walla Walla tribes, the community blends a rich agricultural and cultural history, and welcoming small-city atmosphere, with outstanding dining, higher education, arts, culture, and year-round recreation.



As one of Washington's oldest communities, Walla Walla features an award-winning, nationally recognized historic downtown with locally owned shops, tasting rooms, art galleries, restaurants, coffee shops, and beautifully preserved architecture. The community has received numerous national recognitions, including being named the Friendliest Town in the Country by USA Today, one of the 24 Best Places to Live and Work by Sunset Magazine in 2014, and America's Best Wine Region by USA Today in 2020, 2021, and 2022. Walla Walla has also earned 32 years of Tree City USA recognition, showing the community's long-standing commitment to urban forestry, neighborhood character, and quality of life.

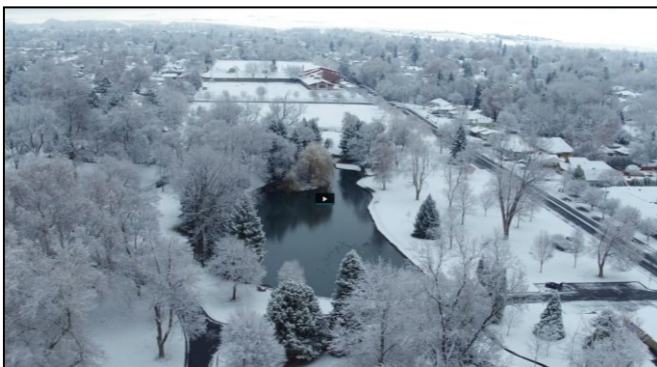
The Walla Walla Valley is home to Whitman College, Walla Walla Community College, and Walla Walla University, located in neighboring College Place, which contribute to the region's cultural vitality and provide valuable opportunities for education, workforce development, and lifelong learning. Agriculture remains an important part of the region's identity and economy. The valley is known for wheat, barley, fruit, and the Walla Walla sweet onion, Washington's official state vegetable. It has also become one of the country's premier wine destinations, supported by a thriving culinary scene and numerous wineries, vineyards, and tasting rooms throughout the valley.



Residents enjoy four distinct seasons and convenient access to outdoor recreation. Bennington Lake and the nearby Blue Mountains offer opportunities for hiking, cycling, camping, fishing, hunting, snowshoeing, and cross-country skiing. Local parks, trails, rivers, golf courses, theaters, museums, festivals, and community events provide a wide range of activities throughout the year.

The City is also making significant investments in community infrastructure and public amenities. Key projects planned or underway in 2026 and 2027 include pavement and water distribution improvements, street reconstruction, bridge maintenance and replacement, wastewater treatment plant digester upgrades, the Highway 12 and North Clinton Street interchange project, and improvements to Reser Road and other major corridors. The City is also advancing a \$16 million revitalization of the Walla Walla Public Library, funded through grants, a capital campaign, an angel donor commitment of \$7 million, and other sources.

Walla Walla is approximately one hour from the Tri-Cities and is served by Walla Walla Regional Airport, which provides commercial air service to Seattle. The community offers the character and connection of a smaller city while remaining accessible to larger regional destinations.



THE CITY

The City of Walla Walla operates under a Council-Manager form of government, with a seven-member City Council serving as the City's legislative governing body. Four councilmembers are elected by ward, representing the Central, South, East, and West wards, and three are elected at-large. Councilmembers are elected to four-year terms, and the Mayor and Mayor Pro-Tem are selected by the City Council for two-year terms.

The City Manager serves as the City's chief executive officer and is responsible for overseeing City operations. Walla Walla's City Manager, Elizabeth Chamberlain, has served as City Manager since December 2022 and has been with the City since 2014, previously serving as Development Services Director and Deputy City Manager.

The City provides a full range of municipal services through the departments of Administration, City Attorney, Development Services, Finance, Fire, Human Resources, Library, Parks & Recreation, Police, Public Works, Support Services, and Technology Services. The City operates with a 2025-2026 biennial budget of \$293,583,000 across all 37 funds, including a General Fund budget of \$100,609,690. The City has 314 FTEs and hires approximately 109 temporary employees annually to support seasonal and operational needs in areas such as the pool, golf course, streets, parks, and sanitation.

THE FINANCE DEPARTMENT

The City of Walla Walla Finance Department provides accountability for all public funds, assets, policies, and systems. The department works to maintain the City's financial stability and public trust through sound financial management, while delivering quality customer service to residents and City employees.

The department operates with 12 FTEs and a 2025-2026 biennial department budget of \$5,124,876. The Finance Department's responsibilities include accounting and reporting, preparation of the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report, audit administration, payroll, project accounting, accounts payable and receivable, budget preparation and monitoring, and utility billing services, including account management, payment management, and customer service.

THE POSITION

Under the general direction of the City Manager, the Finance Director plans, organizes, controls, and directs the finance department operations including purchasing, accounts payable, budgetary and financial reporting, and utility accounting, billing and collection. The Director ensures accounting activities comply with generally accepted accounting principles and with the State of Washington's budgeting accounting and reporting system, and supports the activities of City departments through provision of services and information.



The ideal candidate is a strategic, detail-oriented municipal finance professional with advanced knowledge of governmental accounting, budgeting, financial reporting, treasury, purchasing, accounts payable, utility billing, and collections. This individual brings a strong command of generally accepted accounting principles, GASB pronouncements, State of Washington Budgeting, Accounting, and Reporting System requirements, applicable State and federal laws, and federal tax withholding regulations. This person will be comfortable using ERP systems to improve efficiency, accuracy, transparency, and access to financial records. The successful candidate will be an effective communicator, collaborative department partner, skilled supervisor, and trusted advisor who can interpret complex rules and regulations, prepare clear reports, perform accurate financial analysis, and support sound fiscal decision-making across the City.

To view the position's full job description, please see the attachment provided [here](#).



UPCOMING PRIORITIES

Key priorities for the City include preparation for the 2027-2028 biennial budget, continued organizational development and team stability, and long-term financial sustainability. The next Director will join the organization as the budget process is getting underway and will need to quickly build an understanding of City operations, support a stable and collaborative team environment, and help ensure the City's financial planning remains aligned with long-term service needs and community priorities.

EDUCATION & EXPERIENCE

Candidates should have any combination of education and experience equivalent to a bachelor's degree in business administration, accounting, finance, or a closely related field, and five (5) years of increasingly responsible financial accounting experience in municipal government, including at least five (5) years in a supervisory capacity. A master's degree in business administration, accounting, finance, or a closely related field is preferred. CPA certification, or demonstrated progress toward obtaining a CPA, is also preferred. Experience with Enterprise Resource Planning software and bilingual fluency in Spanish are desirable.



COMPENSATION & BENEFITS

➤ \$153,993 - \$187,356 DOQ

- Medical, dental, orthodontia, and vision insurance, with multiple plan options. City contributes toward full-family medical, dental, and vision coverage.
- Health Savings Account contribution for employees enrolled in an HDHP.
- City-paid \$50,000 life and AD&D insurance.
- Voluntary life, AD&D, long-term disability, and supplemental insurance options.
- Washington State PERS retirement plan.
- Deferred compensation options with City match up to 3.5%.
- 20 days of vacation annually for Department Directors, increasing to 25 days with longevity.
- 10 paid holidays annually.
- 40 hours of floating holiday time (used within the calendar year).
- Sick leave accrual of 8 hours per month.
- Employee Assistance Program, including six covered sessions per issue.
- YMCA corporate membership discount.
- Wellness program.
- Additional candidate incentives might include relocation assistance, professional development support, and front-loaded vacation.

For a full review of benefits and perks provided, please click [here](#).

The City of Walla Walla is an Equal Opportunity Employer. All qualified candidates are strongly encouraged to apply by **August 14, 2026** (first review, open until filled). Applications, resumes, cover letters, and supplemental questions will only be accepted electronically. To **apply online**, go to **www.prothman.com** and click on "Open Recruitments", select "City of Walla Walla, WA – Finance Director", and click "Apply Online", or click [here](#).



For more information on the City of Walla Walla and the local community, please visit:

www.wallawallawa.gov

www.wallawalla.org

www.wvwchamber.com



www.prothman.com

206.368.0050