



July 24, 2025

Sabrina Cotta
City Manager
City of Ashland

Dear Sabrina,

It is with mixed feelings that I offer my resignation as Director of Finance & Technology effective August 18, 2025. I had looked forward to continuing my work with the City for years to come, however my husband and I have made the necessary decision to move back to our home state of Washington to be closer to aging parents and provide certain opportunities for our teenage daughter.

I am so proud of my and my staff's accomplishments during my tenure. We have:

- Continued to support the departments in achieving a healthy financial position for the City with solid cash and ending fund balances for the General Fund and the Enterprises.
- Reconfirmed a high credit rating of Aa3 for the City's long-term debt.
- Realized over 300% increase of interest income over budget that helped fund much needed wildfire mitigation in our watershed.
- Operationally stabilized the Utility Billing Division by staffing up, opening back up to the public, and restarted the collections process that reduce outstanding receivables.
- Authored ordinances that directly improved the Public Procurement process and the Utility Systems Customer Service Policies, saving time and resources City-Wide.
- Implemented technological process improvements for Accounts Payable and Purchasing and are moving towards implementing new technology for an outdated payroll system.
- Bolstered cybersecurity measures that make the City's technology infrastructure safer and more resilient.
- Supported Ashland Fiber Network in its goals to expand and deliver high-speed internet to a record-breaking number of subscribers.
- Assisted with the Water Infrastructure Finance Innovation Act (WIFIA) Loan that will fund the relocation and construction of the new Water Treatment Plant.
- Made substantive strides towards the close of the Rural Energy Savings Program loan that will offer Ashland residents access to low-cost energy efficiency measures.

FINANCE DEPARTMENT

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- Assisted in the adoption the 2025-2027 biennial budget, while also continuing to receive the annual GFOA (Government Finance Officers Association) Budget Award.
- Received a clean opinion on the annual audits the last couple years while also continuing to receive the annual GFOA Excellence in Financial Reporting.

While there is still so much to do (always!), I feel confident that the Finance and Technology teams will continue our good work with:

- Long-term Financial Forecasting
- Solidifying the budget process with mid-biennium reporting
- Ensuring continued consistency in, and compliance with, our internal controls
- Safeguarding our information systems and continuing to expand our Ashland Fiber Network
- Continuing to lead with integrity, transparency and respect in all our processes

I have lived in Ashland for 25 years and I value this organization, its staff and the community enormously. I remain faithful to the City of Ashland by ensuring a smooth transition for my team and the organization as a whole and can make myself available for questions as needed post-transition. Thank you so much for the opportunity to serve this community.

Sincerely,

Mariane Berry

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