Lincoln looking for new finance director

City officials have renewed their search for a finance director because David Young, who has been acting director since January 2021, is leaving.

Young accepted a job as Chief Operations Officer at the Nebraskan Foundation for Financial Assistance Saturday. The city’s information services officer, Young stepped in as acting finance director after former director Brandon Kaufman left for a job at the Kansas Turnpike Authority.

An initial search for a new finance director ended after the city finalist dropped out after his personal circumstances changed.

“We are grateful to David for stepping up to oversee the finance department as interim director, as well as for his leadership in modernizing our organization’s technology and information services in his capacity as our chief information officer,” said Mayor Leirion Gaylor Baird. “During his tenure, the city has continued to make significant strides in financial management and has been able to move forward on several important projects.”

Baird announced his retirement in November after more than 18 years of service to the city. City Controller Melinda Jones, who has served in the finance department for more than 11 years, will serve as the acting director until the mayor appoints someone to fill the position.

Lincoln has been using the same firm to help search for McDaniels’ replacement because the city extended the application period because of the holiday season. McDaniels submitted his resignation late last month, and the city’s top finalist dropped out in February, city officials said.

The city hired GovHR, a human resources consulting firm in Northbrook, Illinois, to conduct a search for the next director. The position is expected to be posted this month and filled by the end of May.

Guerry said in a news release that the new director will have at least five years of previous directors, including “a commitment to operational excellence, fiscal responsibility and continued transparency regarding city finances.”

The finance department has six divisions: accounting, administration, budget, city clerk, city treasurer, information services and purchasing.

The information services and purchasing divisions also serve Lancaster County. The city will also be looking for a new information services officer. That position will be posted this month.

The city also is searching for a new human resources director, for a position that serves both city and county, after longtime director Doug MacNamara announced his retirement in November.

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