Introduction

The City of Bristol, Tennessee is seeking an experienced professional to be their next full-time City Attorney/Corporate Counsel.

Located adjacent to I-81 in Sullivan County, Bristol is a part of the Tri-Cities, Tennessee. With a population of 27,000 people, the city sits within a Combined Statistical Area (CSA) which has a population of more than 500,000. It is the twin city of Bristol, Virginia which lies directly across the state line between Tennessee and Virginia. The boundary between the two cities is that of the States, which runs along State Street in their common downtown district.
Bristol offers an exceptional quality of life, with a low cost of living and moderately priced real estate. Located in the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains, four distinct seasons and a temperate climate, a thriving downtown, growing arts scene (including the Rhythm and Roots Reunion), and exceptional music venues (including the Paramount Center for the Arts) provide residents with abundant options for indoor and outdoor recreation. Families can play, fish, boat, bike, hike and picnic at Steele Creek Park, Sugar Hollow Park, and South Holston Lake. Residents can also golf at a number of locations, including the 9-hole Municipal Golf Course.

Bristol is probably best known for being the site of some of the first commercial recordings of country music, showcasing Jimmie Rodgers and the Carter Family. The U.S. Congress recognized Bristol as the "Birthplace of Country Music" in 1998. Bristol is also the site of the Bristol Motor Speedway, a NASCAR short track that normally sells out more than 160,000 seats twice annually.

The City of Bristol owns the Bristol Tennessee City Schools system, which provides comprehensive K-12 education. The City school system has an approximate enrollment of 3,900 students and a professional teaching staff of 250. The system is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. It boasts test scores in the top 10% in the Tennessee Comprehensive Assessment Program.

An extensive network of major roadways provides valuable opportunities for businesses and residents. Located within a day's drive of more than 70 percent of the U.S. population, Bristol is served by more than 50 motor freight carriers and 2 railroads. Outstanding air service is available through the Tri-Cities Regional Airport, which offers jet and air carrier service to more than 100 cities.

City Governance

The City itself is approximately 31 square miles in area, and operates under a Council-Manager form of government. The City Attorney/Corporate Counsel reports directly to the City Manager.
The current City Manager has been with the City for a number of years, mostly as Deputy City Manager, and more recently as City Manager. The City Council is comprised of 5 members elected on a non-partisan basis for staggered 4-year terms of office.

Bristol is a full-service city providing a wide range of municipal programs and facilities. City services include the following: police, fire, transit, planning, community development, public facilities maintenance, water supply, wastewater collection/treatment and leisure services. As of the current fiscal year, the permanent and full-time associates total is 313.

This is an exceptional opportunity to work in a top-notch organization with a superb staff of high-quality leaders and managers. The City Attorney/Corporate Counsel position will require an individual with sound judgment and legal skills, and a can-do work ethic.

History

Before 1852, what is now the heart of the City of Bristol Tennessee / Virginia was part of the vast plantation of Rev. James King. Rev. King had a son-in-law, Mr. Joseph R. Anderson, then a merchant of Blountville, Tennessee, who when learning that two railroads would meet upon the King land, foresaw that the site would be ideal for the founding of a city.

On July 10, 1852, Anderson contracted for 100 acres of the King plantation: forty-eight acres in Tennessee and fifty-two acres in Virginia. On July 16, 1852, he chose the name "Bristol" for his planned city, narrowly edging out the name "Paradise" by only one point. The survey of Bristol began August 1, 1852 and continued for three days. During the summer of 1853, Mr. Anderson had a combined residence and business house erected on what is now the southwest corner of State Street and Martin Luther King Blvd. This was the first building erected in the Town of Bristol and was the beginning of this city. Anderson moved his family from Blountville to this house on September 18, 1853. The Bristol post office opened in this house on November 5th. His general mercantile store opened for business on December 24th of the same year. Banking began in 1854. This corner is now called the Birthplace of Bristol.
The City of Bristol operates under a Private Act Charter. The Charter was first adopted, and the City was thus incorporated, in 1856.

Position Profile

Under direction of the City Manager, the City Attorney/Corporate Counsel position provides analysis and counsel on legal, policy and contractual issues. The position prepares and/or reviews contracts, deeds, code of ordinances, and resolutions for the benefit of the City of Bristol and City Council. The position anticipates and guards against legal risks facing the City and develops and recommends positions on legal issues. The City Attorney/Corporate Counsel will also perform related work as required.

Position Qualifications

The following education, experience, management, and leadership criteria have been identified as important skills and abilities for candidates to possess and demonstrate (not in order of importance):

- Requires a Bachelor's degree and Juris Doctor from an accredited law school.
- Three to five years of corporate law experience. Experience in municipal law is preferred.
- Knowledge of federal, state and local laws affecting municipalities.
- Strong interpersonal skills.
- Ability to analyze case law and provide recommendations and develop legal positions.
- Must be licensed to practice law in the State of Tennessee and be in good standing.
Candidates should have a broad understanding of municipal legal issues.

Candidates must have a reputation for personal, professional and organizational integrity, conducting all personal and professional interactions fairly, honestly and ethically.

Candidates must be self-motivated and hard-working, have a calm and professional demeanor, projecting a reasonable and considered approach to issues and challenges; be able to accept feedback/criticism in a constructive manner.

Candidates must have strong analytical skills, with the ability to develop reports which include well-reasoned recommendations based on a thorough analysis of relevant law; someone who is able to present these recommendations in a logical, understandable manner.

Candidates should possess strong interpersonal skills and the ability to work with and function as a key member of a high-performing team. They must have a collegial style, and be approachable and interactive with employees, elected officials and community leaders.

Candidates must be self-starters who are willing to listen to new ideas; be innovative and creative when addressing issues.
Position Advertisement

City of Bristol, Tennessee  (27,000)
City Attorney/Corporate Counsel

Salary range of $72,050 - $117,125 DOQ, plus excellent benefits. 313 employees. Current Attorney leaving after many years. Position is full-time and answers to the City Manager. Full service community in Northeast Tennessee. Must be a proven attorney with excellent legal and analytical skills. Responsible for analysis and counsel on legal, policy and contractual issues. At least 3 years’ experience as a corporate attorney, with experience as a municipal attorney preferred. Requires a Bachelor's degree and Juris Doctor from an accredited law school.

Send resume by **July 6, 2015** to City Manager Bill Sorah, Attn: City Attorney Applications, City of Bristol, P.O. Box 1189, Bristol, TN  37620. Phone: (423) 989-5501. Or email resume to: resume@bristoltn.org.