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In Albuquerque, New Mexico, landing a job with the police force or fire department may get you a sign-on bonus of \$15,000, close to what some [Wall Street bankers](#) might expect.

Despite such incentives, about 1 in 10 local government jobs remains unfilled. Wait times on the city's non-emergency police line are upwards of 45 minutes and several bus routes are cut each week.

Thousands of cities, towns and states across the U.S. are facing the most acute labor shortage in recent memory. Regional governments have an even tougher time than businesses because they can't compete with [private-sector wages](#), can rarely offer remote work and they've faced a larger wave of early retirements during the pandemic...

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