



# EUREKA

## \$28 Million Acquisition of Water and Wastewater Systems



### CITY OF EUREKA

- Population of 11,646
- Located in St. Louis County

### WATER SYSTEM

- \$18 million appraised value
- 4,200 customers
- Water source: 6 wells
- 58 miles of water main
- 643 hydrants

### WASTEWATER SYSTEM

- \$10 million appraised value
- 4,200 customers
- Treatment: Three-cell aerated lagoon plant
- 62.5 miles of wastewater pipe

### CHALLENGES

As Eureka's population has grown, so too has the expertise, staffing, and capital expenditures required to run the water and wastewater systems. The City found it increasingly difficult to meet federal and state regulations and find personnel with the ability to operate the systems efficiently. Many residents complained about the aesthetic qualities of the drinking water, which was said to have an unpleasant taste/odor and negatively impact household appliances, and pending improvements to meet wastewater regulations would require significant investments and rate increases.

### SOLUTION

City leaders began initial conversations with Missouri American Water in 2018. An appraisal was conducted that valued the systems at \$28 million. In addition to the purchase price, the company pledged to invest \$37 million over the next ten years to improve the city's water quality, upgrade aging infrastructure, and maintain regulatory compliance. The planned investment included building a new pipeline to connect Eureka with high-quality water supplied from the Missouri River. In August 2020, more than 66% of Eureka voters supported a ballot measure to sell the systems for \$28 million and make Missouri American Water their trusted water and wastewater provider.

### RESULTS

Following approval from the Missouri Public Service Commission, Missouri American Water began providing water and wastewater service to Eureka in August 2022. Planning for wastewater treatment plant improvements began immediately, as did work to replace the city's older water meters with Advanced Meter Infrastructure that allows for potential leaks to be detected more quickly. Construction of the five-mile pipeline to supply Eureka with water from the Missouri River will begin soon and is expected to be completed in 2024, and planning for wastewater treatment plant improvements began immediately.

*"I was elected...to try to resolve Eureka's water and sewer challenges. After carefully analyzing the issues and examining our options, I recommended going with Missouri American Water as the best option. I'm glad voters agreed and look forward to working with Eureka residents and the Board of Aldermen to focus on other needs of our community, including reinvesting the sale proceeds to support economic growth."*

**– Mayor Sean Flower**