



CITY OF LAWSON

\$4 Million Acquisition of Water and Wastewater System

CITY OF LAWSON

- Population of 2,500
- Located in Clay, Clinton and Ray counties

WATER SYSTEM

- \$2.63 million appraised value
- 968 customers
- Water source: Purchased water from Excelsior Springs
- 35 miles of water main
- 150 hydrants

WASTEWATER SYSTEM

- \$1.37 million appraised value
- 913 customers
- Treatment: Four lagoons
- Over 21 miles of wastewater pipe

CHALLENGES

The City of Lawson was confronting significant regulatory compliance challenges with its wastewater system. To meet updated standards and maintain compliance, the city faced an estimated \$2.5 million in necessary infrastructure upgrades. Such an investment would have placed a heavy financial burden on residents, with rates projected to rise sharply over the coming years due to the limited customer base and lack of economies of scale. Recognizing the need for both financial sustainability and operational excellence, city officials were eager to partner with a trusted water and wastewater service provider, while freeing up municipal resources to focus on other pressing priorities facing the community.

SOLUTION

In early 2017, city officials began initial discussions with Missouri American Water to explore a long-term solution for their water and wastewater systems. Following a comprehensive appraisal, the systems were valued at a combined \$4 million. Beyond the purchase price, Missouri American Water committed to investing an additional \$3 million over the next five years to maintain regulatory compliance. The proposal received overwhelming public support; more than 90% of voters supported a ballot measure to sell the systems and choose Missouri American Water as the trusted partner to provide safe, clean and reliable water and wastewater service.



RESULTS

Following approval from the Missouri Public Service Commission, Missouri American Water began providing water and wastewater service to the City of Lawson in August 2018. Since then, the company has implemented a series of strategic upgrades to modernize the city's infrastructure and meet regulatory compliance. Notable enhancements to the city's wastewater system include:

- ultraviolet disinfection technology
- construction of a new lift station
- installation of remote monitoring systems

For the water system, Missouri American Water replaced approximately 3,000 feet of aging water main and installed an additional 3,500 feet of new pipe to enhance system reliability. Between 2022 to 2024 alone, Missouri American Water invested over \$5 million in the water and wastewater systems in the City of Lawson.

“Missouri American Water had a wonderful outcome for the city, it has also been a wonderful outcome for the residents. Missouri American Water has invested in the infrastructure of Lawson as well. They have tried to integrate and become a real part of our town. That to me is their real selling point. They wanted to become part of the Lawson family.”

– Rhonda Nye Oulman, Lawson City Clerk