

LAWSON

\$4 Million Acquisition of Water and Wastewater System



CITY OF LAWSON

- Population of 2,541
- Located in Clay, Clinton, and Ray

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
- 21.2 miles of wastewater pipe

CHALLENGES

The City of Lawson was facing regulatory compliance issues with its wastewater system, which uses four lagoons for treatment. An estimated \$2.5 million in investment was needed to upgrade the wastewater system to maintain compliance. Like many communities of comparable size, rates would have increased significantly over the next several years if the investments were made by the city due to the small customer base and lack of economies of scale. City officials were also eager to partner with a company to provide expertise in operating and maintaining the water and wastewater systems, allowing them to focus on other critical issues facing their community.

SOLUTION

City leaders began initial conversations with Missouri American Water in early 2017. An appraisal was conducted that valued the systems at a combined \$4 million. In addition to the purchase price, the company pledged to invest \$3 million over the next five years to maintain regulatory compliance.

In August 2017, just over 90% of Lawson voters supported a ballot measure to sell the systems for \$4 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 Lawson in August 2018. Several key improvements have been made to the wastewater system, including the addition of ultraviolet disinfection to the treatment process, construction and implementation of a new lift station, and installation of remote monitoring. Approximately 3,000 feet of water main has been replaced and about 3,500 feet of new water main has been installed.



“We were not experts at water and sewer, but Missouri American Water is. They have the knowledge, capital resources and expertise to ensure our citizens will have reliable water and wastewater service for years to come. Most importantly, they are committed to doing the right thing for their customers and the community.”

– Matt Nolker, Lawson City Administrator