

GARDEN CITY

\$3 Million Acquisition of Water and Wastewater Systems



CITY OF GARDEN CITY

- Population of 1,642
- Located in southeast Cass County and is part of the Kansas City Metro Area

WATER SYSTEM

- \$1 million appraised value
- 655 customers
- Water source: Surface water - two lakes
- 23.5 miles of water main
- 88 hydrants

WASTEWATER SYSTEM

- \$2 million appraised value
- 611 customers
- Treatment: Three-cell aerated lagoon plant
- 11.7 miles of wastewater pipe

CHALLENGES

Garden City was facing major compliance challenges for both their water and wastewater systems. Since 2015, they had received 27 violations for drinking water treatment from the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, and as of March 2021 the wastewater system would no longer be in regulatory compliance. Critical investments had not been made in an effort to keep rates low. Missouri American Water could provide the investment and expertise needed to bring the systems into compliance and improve water quality.

SOLUTION

City leaders investigated several options including a partnership with a neighboring water district. Conversations with Missouri American Water began in 2018. An appraisal was conducted that valued the systems at \$3 million. In addition to the purchase price, the company pledged to invest \$7.4 million over the next five years to improve the city's water and wastewater systems, including critical upgrades to water treatment equipment, replacing aging water mains and water meters, and the construction of a service center allowing for more efficient operation of the systems. The city could also retire its debt and have significant funds to address additional community needs.

In November 2020, more than 67% of Garden City voters supported a ballot measure to sell the systems for \$3 million and make Missouri American Water their trusted water and wastewater provider. With proceeds from the sale, the city can now focus on additional community priorities.

RESULTS

Following approval from the Missouri Public Service Commission, Missouri American Water began providing water and wastewater service to Garden City in December 2021. Immediately work began toward maintaining regulatory compliance, including improvement of the chemical feed system at the water

treatment plant and cleaning of the wastewater lagoons. Replacement of aging infrastructure is ongoing, and employees have been provided with updated equipment to improve operating efficiencies.

"After thoroughly reviewing the options, I believed Proposition S was the right choice for the future of Garden City."

– Mayor Marc Walton