



# OKLAHOMA

## Water Resources Board

### **Immediate Release:**

December 8, 2022

### **Lawton Water Authority receives \$28,000,000 water system funding from OWRB**

OKLAHOMA CITY – The Lawton Water Authority (Authority) received approval for \$28,000,000 in funding Thursday from the Oklahoma Water Resources Board (OWRB) to improve the Authority’s water infrastructure. Construction of upgrades and improvements to the water system will be financed by the Oklahoma Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) where \$1,000,000 will be in the form of loan forgiveness.

The Authority will utilize the proceeds to replace approximately 9,000 linear feet of thirty-six (36) inch water line along NW Cache Road, approximately 1,600 linear feet of thirty (30) inch water line along NW Hunter Road, and approximately 13,000 linear feet of twelve (12) inch water line along NW Cache Road. This project will ensure adequate water pressures within these areas and help to prevent leaks or breaks in the water lines.

Joe Freeman, chief of the OWRB’s Financial Assistance Division, calculated that the Authority’s customers will save an estimated \$10,013,300 over the life of the 25-year loan compared to traditional financing. The DWSRF loan will be secured with a lien on the revenues of the Authority’s water, sewer, and sanitation systems. Director of Public Utilities, Rusty Whisenhunt, stated, “The city of Lawton thanks the Board for its consideration.”

The DWSRF program is administered by the OWRB and the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality (ODEQ) with partial funding from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The DWSRF program has provided over \$2 billion in drinking water loans to provide communities the resources necessary to maintain and improve the infrastructure that protects our valuable water resources statewide.

Since 1983, the Oklahoma Water Resources Board has approved over \$6.14 billion in loans and grants for water and wastewater infrastructure improvements throughout Oklahoma.

Julie Cunningham, Executive Director of the OWRB, and Scott Thompson, Executive Director of the ODEQ, express their sincere appreciation to State Legislators from the Lawton metro area for their support of the DWSRF program.

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