

Sunman Drinking Water Infrastructure Improvements

Total Estimated Cost: \$4.7 Million | Shovel-Ready | County & Community-Wide Support| Comprehensive Plan

Transforming Sunman for Decades – A Once-in-a-Generation Opportunity

Sunman has invested nearly \$3 million in infrastructure over the last six years, but limited revenue means we can't do it all. This project is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to modernize our water system, protect public health, and secure the town's future – responsibly and sustainably.

The project is fully shovel-ready with a recent Preliminary Engineering Report (PER), updated Asset Management plan, and supporting studies and mapping completed, demonstrating technical readiness and strong planning.

Why This Project Matters

- **Safe, Reliable Water:** Replace aging 1950s–1980s infrastructure.
 - **Public Health & Safety:** Protects residents and businesses; improves fire protection.
 - **Economic Stability:** Supports population retention, growth, and new investment.
 - **Sustainable Infrastructure:** Reduces long-term costs for energy, chemicals, and labor.
 - **Environmental Stewardship:** Aligns with DOI priorities for resilient, green communities.
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Drinking Water Improvements

- **Water Treatment Facility:** Rehabilitation and replacement of aging components originally constructed in 1950, with 1960s additions now beyond their useful life, including replacement of the high service pumps, revitalization of a pump that previously could not be repaired, and filtration system upgrades as current media is beyond its useful life and leaks are causing operational issues.
 - **Water Wells:** Cleaning and repair of four wells installed between 1965 and 1993 to improve reliability and capacity during peak demand.
 - **Elevated Tanks:** Inspection, tenting, abrasive blasting, repair, and recoating of two elevated storage tanks (75,000-gallon from 1950 and 200,000-gallon from 1981), including safety upgrades. One tank has tested positive for exterior lead-based paint, requiring proper containment and remediation.
 - **Water Mains:** Installation of approximately 5,500 linear feet of new 6-inch mains to loop dead-end mains and replace undersized cast-iron mains, improving pressure, hydrant flow, fire protection, and water quality.
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Community and Operational Impact

- Ensures safe, reliable water for residents and businesses
 - Improves public safety & fire protection
 - Supports population retention & prevents decline
 - Encourages economic growth and new investment
 - Extends infrastructure lifespan and reduces long-term operational costs
 - Addresses daily operational challenges caused by low pressure and low water levels, which frequently impact service
 - Strengthens staffing sustainability: only two full-time employees manage all utilities, making improvements critical to workforce retention
 - Financial constraints currently prevent the town from offering competitive wages or taking on large loans, contributing to employee turnover
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The Bottom Line

Funding this project now is critical. It will prevent costly emergencies, protect the environment, strengthen public safety, support the workforce, and ensure Sunman remains a thriving, resilient community for decades to come.