



City of Columbia

701 East Broadway, Columbia, Missouri 65201

Department Source: City Utilities - Water and Light

To: City Council

From: City Manager & Staff

Council Meeting Date: August 18, 2025

Re: Supplemental Council Memo: Amending Chapter 27 of the City Code as it relates to water services and rates – 2018 Water Ballot Capital Project Status Update

Executive Summary

A supplemental council memo has been prepared to provide a project status update on the 2018 Water Ballot Capital Projects.

Discussion

During the August 4, 2025 City Council meeting, Councilman Waterman requested an update on the 2018 Water Ballot Capital projects. Staff have provided the following information below:

1. 2018 Bond Proposal approved by voters
2. Water Bond Sale and Authority
3. Water projects with bond money and notes
4. Construction status report of 2018 water bond projects

1. 2018 Bond Proposal approved by voters:

| | |
|--|--------------|
| Replacement of existing infrastructure | \$5,250,000 |
| System modernization | \$27,000,000 |
| System reliability | \$6,200,000 |
| Contingency | \$500,000 |
| Financing/ Bond expenses | \$3,895,000 |



2. Water bond sale and authority:

| | |
|--------------------------|--------------|
| 2018 Bond Authorization | \$42,845,000 |
| 2019 Bond Sale Projects | \$14,500,000 |
| 2019 Bond Sale Expenses | \$650,000 |
| 2023 Bond Sale Project | \$25,838,000 |
| 2023 Bond Sale Expenses | 1,857,000 |
| Remaining Bond Authority | \$0 |

In 2018, voters approved bonds for replacement of existing infrastructure, system modernization and system reliability. Bond sale expenses were not as much as expected, so an additional \$1,338,000 went towards capital projects. The majority of the bond sales are being used on system modernization for the West Ash Pump Station and the Water Treatment Plant Phase 1 upgrades. The dollar amount shown in the following bond projects table is only the bond funds appropriated to the project and does not include any cash funds that may be also be appropriated to the project. The bond funds spent column includes money encumbered for equipment or a contract. The notes identify the project status or if additional funds are needed.

The majority of the 2018 bond funds will be spent on the Water Treatment Plant Phase 1 upgrade. Significant inflationary increases in construction, equipment and materials created a necessity to phase the upgrade to the facility. This was discussed at the November 28, 2022 Council Work Session. Phase 1 includes aerator replacement, softening basin improvements, filter improvements, reclaim basin improvements, lime feed improvements and new chemical feed systems and building. Phase 2 includes filter building improvements, re-carbonization (CO2) chemical feed system, major electrical improvements, a new filter header and high service pump building. Current estimates for a proposed FY2030 ballot issue are about \$40 million, which would also include water distribution system improvement projects. Phase 3 of the Water Treatment Plant upgrade, if the community is in favor, would be advanced water treatment such as granular activated carbon filtration. November 2023 cost estimates for Phase 3 is more than \$47 million in construction costs and more than \$4 million annually for filter media replacement.



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3. Water projects with bond money:

| Project Description | Total Bond Funds Spent or Encumbered to Date | Bond Funds Remaining | Notes |
|---|---|-----------------------------|---|
| Water Main Replacements | \$352,286 | | Annual Project. Bond monies spent |
| Main Relocation for Streets & Highways | \$600,000 | | Annual Project. Bond monies spent |
| West Ash Pump Station Upgrades | \$5,426,565 | | Expected completion Fall 2026. No additional funds needed. |
| New Southeast Pump Station | \$729,970 | \$47,144 | Bond funds spent on preliminary design. ~\$5 million enterprise revenue budgeted from FY27 to FY29 |
| New Elevated Storage (Southwest) | \$8,649 | \$2,991,351 | On hold due to difficulty acquiring property. ~\$12 million needed to move forward with construction |
| Riback Rd & Blackberry Ln Main Repl | \$8,427 | \$111,487 | Construction in progress. No additional funds needed |
| S. Glenwood Ave & Glenwood Ct Water Main Replacement | \$27,371 | | Complete |
| Woodbine Dr Water Main Replacement | \$3,573 | | Complete |
| Lake of the Woods – St. Charles to Mexico Gravel Water Main Replacement | \$132,498 | | Bond funds spent on preliminary design. \$1.3 million enterprise revenue budgeted in FY 33 for construction |
| Water Treatment Plant Upgrade – Phase 1 | \$29,898,679 | | Expected completion Fall 2026. |
| Total | \$37,188,018 | \$3,149,982 | \$40,338,000 |



4. Construction status report of 2018 water bond projects:

Each quarter, staff provides a 2018 Water Bond status report to the WLAB so that they can see the progress of the various projects. Below is information that was provided to them at the August 13, 2025 monthly meeting and was current as of August 1, 2025.

1. Water Treatment Plant:

A. Contractor: Bowen Engineering

B. Overall Project Completion: 30%

C. Work items completed:

- Filters 1 & 2 backwash piping installed. Blower installed and tested.
- Chemical building sidewalk, top slab, and installation of chlorine scrubber
- Primary Clarifier 3 lime piping, slide gates with actuators installed. Clarifier installation complete.
- HVAC equipment in Operations building

D. Work items currently in progress:

- Primary Clarifier 3 startup
- Chemical building painting and roofing
- Admin building atrium

E. Construction progress photos:



Figure 1 – Clarifier 3 Bridge Installation

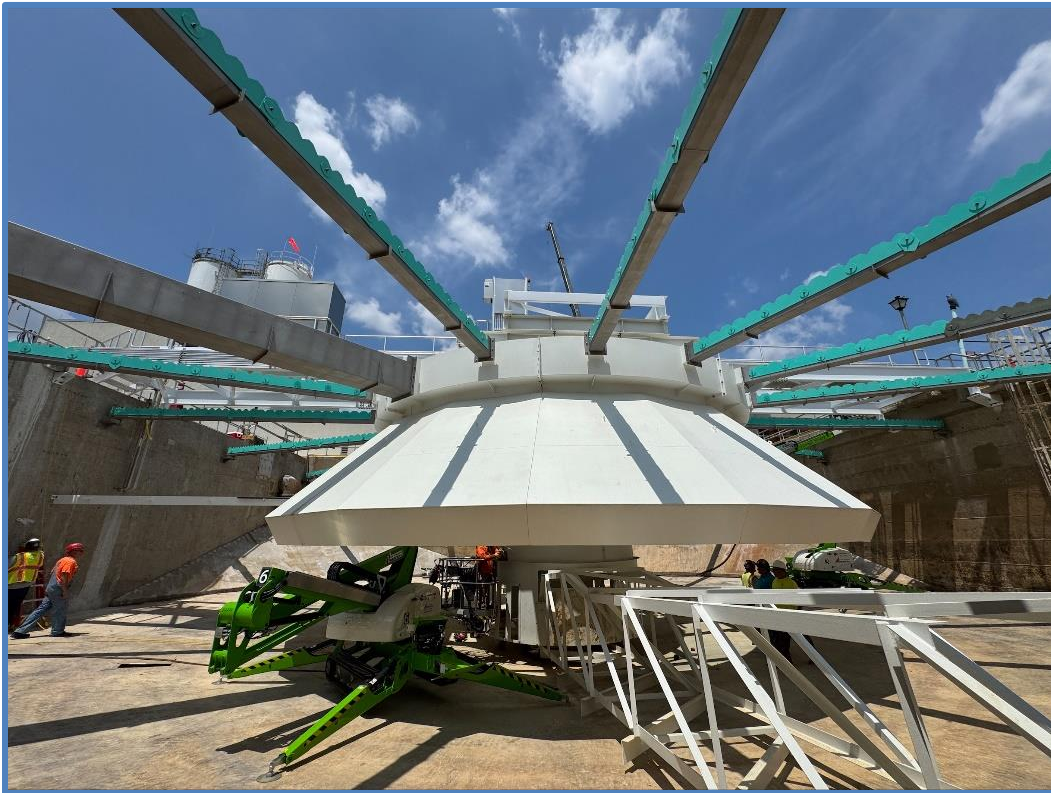


Figure 2 – Clarifier 3 Launderers and Reaction Well



Figure 3 – Filter Blower



Figure 4 – New HVAC system (Basement of Operations Building)

2. West Ash Pump Station

- A. Contractor: Tarleton Corporation
- B. Submittal submission/review in progress
- C. Equipment delivery and estimated mobilization October 2025

3. Southeast Pump

Project on hold until funding can be allocated

4. Southwest Water Tower

- A. Staff held interested Parties (IP) meeting on December 19, 2024
- B. Staff is evaluating next steps

5. Well Platforms

- A. This funding was appropriated to the Water Treatment Plant Upgrade
- B. Future well platforms upgrades will be completed as operational projects

Fiscal Impact

Short-Term Impact: N/A

Long-Term Impact: N/A



Strategic & Comprehensive Plan Impact

[Strategic Plan Impacts:](#)

Primary Impact: Reliable and Sustainable Infrastructure, Secondary Impact: Not Applicable, Tertiary Impact: Not Applicable

[Comprehensive Plan Impacts:](#)

Primary Impact: Infrastructure, Secondary Impact: Not applicable, Tertiary Impact: Not Applicable

Legislative History

| Date | Action |
|------------|---|
| 08/04/2025 | B170-25 Amending Chapter 27 of the City Code as it relates to water services and rates. |

Suggested Council Action

Supplemental information. Recommend approval of the ordinance.