

City of Stephen

Drinking Water | Wastewater



The City of Stephen has experienced **multiple watermain breaks**, averaging one per year over the past 10 years, leading to **shutting off the entire system for repairs** and multiple boil orders. Watermain failures have **forced e-learning days at school** and cancelation of community events. Approximately **2/3 of the water distribution system and wastewater system are in poor condition** and according to the City, "is hanging on by a thread". The City is **not able to properly flush the system** and has experienced **multiple failures due to the age and fragility of the pipeage**. Stephen's wastewater system has **excessive Inflow and Infiltration** which has led to several bypass events.

The city has already invested over **\$330,000** in water tower updates along with **hundreds of thousands** in watermain repairs

Funds Needed

Project Scope

This project phase includes:

- Replace piping that is failing and improperly sized.
- Install three gate valves and a side fill for the fire department.
- Replace water tower pump, check valves, and controls.
- Street restoration for all streets that are affected by utility replacement.
- Addition of watermain looping to eliminate stagnant water- PPL Rank 926.
- Improvements to sewer collection system to eliminate inflow and infiltration - PPL Rank 117 (collection system) and 281 (rehab pond).
- New water meters for consistency and efficiency in water usage and billing

Project Affordability

- The population of Stephen is 592.
- Median household income is \$63,750 compared to the State average of \$85,086.
- 29.7% of children under 18 yrs. old in Stephen are living in poverty.
- As part of this project, the city will establish a reserve/replacement account.
- Current monthly utility costs in Stephen will increase an additional \$80/month without bonding assistance.
- Introduced SF 1378
- Introduced HF 602



Why Your Support Matters Now

Stephen knows this project will improve the quality of life, health, safety, and well-being for the residents and visitors to their community. The City of Stephen is respectfully requesting **\$8.0 million** in Minnesota Legislative Bonding towards Utilities and Street Reconstruction Activities related to their infrastructure improvements project.

