

# NEWS RELEASE

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## **Village of Lawton Saves \$1.8 Million On New Water Project**

LAWTON, MI. – The Village of Lawton will receive funding from the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality Drinking Water Revolving Fund program that will include a 40 percent principal forgiveness of the final loan amount. Combined with the competitive bidding by contractors that reduced costs by \$510,000, the Village will save approximately \$1.8 million in costs of the originally estimated \$3.75 million water project.

Lawton will receive the \$1,296,000 loan principal forgiveness amount as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). The energy efficiency improvements to upgrade the water main and existing wells and a new radio read meter system amounted to \$883,872 of the forgiveness amount.

The water project will also include a new 500,000 gallon spheroid water tower, a new well, and the abandonment and demolition of the existing water tower and two aging wells. The largest component of the project will be a new water tower which will be approximately 40 feet taller than the existing water tower. The new tower will raise the water pressure and provide increased fire protection on the east side of the Village and at the middle and high schools.

“We started this process over a year ago and we are looking forward to starting this project in February. We are especially pleased that our costs will be significantly under our original estimate. There were five contracts awarded and there are several local contractors who will be working on the project,” stated David Cornish, Village President.

Village Engineer, Wightman & Associates, Inc. assisted the Village to identify the scope of the project and completed all the design work to meet the schedule for 2010 first quarter funding in order to receive the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds.

The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) has adopted a number of core values to guide its efforts in protecting human health and the environment, and in preserving Michian's natural heritage. The Michigan Drinking Water Revolving Fund (DWRF) program is designed to assist water suppliers in satisfying the requirements of the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) by providing low-interest loans for the planning, design and construction of waterworks. For more information, visit

[www.michigan.gov/deq](http://www.michigan.gov/deq).

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