

Jasper Is Running Dry!

A Water System in Crisis

The City of Jasper is losing approximately **47 gallons of water for every 100 gallons** that move through its water system.

Crisis-Level System Failure

According to the American Water Works Association, water losses exceeding 40% are considered a **crisis-level system failure** and may indicate years of deferred maintenance and chronic system mismanagement.

Public Health and Safety Risks

When water pressure drops, dirt, bacteria, and other contaminants can enter the water system through leaks and breaks in aging infrastructure. In the event of a drought, Jasper may not have enough water to meet current demand. A severe water shortage could also compromise the city's ability to fight fires if hydrants lose pressure or run dry.

Financial Risk to Residents and Businesses

Jasper faces significant financial exposure if the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) or state regulators demand the estimated \$20 million in repairs that the water system requires.

The city has reportedly exhausted its available credit and has limited borrowing capacity. If major repairs become mandatory, the financial burden could fall directly on residents and local businesses through:

- Significant increases in water and sewer rates
- Higher property taxes
- Additional fees and assessments

Piedmont Hospital Expansion Denied

Piedmont Hospital's request for a major expansion was denied due to concerns about the city's water infrastructure. The proposed expansion would have increased healthcare services available to the community. According to reports, hospital officials were advised to consider contingency plans, including the use of water tanker trucks, in the event of a major system failure.

THERE IS A SOLUTION

More than **\$300 million in potential development projects** have expressed interest in locating in Jasper. These projects are primarily commercial developments that will generate substantial tax revenue, utility fees, and economic growth.

The choice is clear: either the city works with the business community to help fund critical infrastructure improvements, or the financial burden will increasingly fall on Jasper's residents and existing businesses.