

# 2024 ANNUAL WATER REPORT TO THE CITY COUNCIL

The Water Department has seven full-time Employees plus one Utility Billing Clerk doing collections and data entry at City Hall.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Years of Service</b>	<b>Certificate grade and type</b>
1. Rich Sudtelgte	19 years	Grade IV Treatment/ Grade III Distribution
2. Monte Brent	8 years	Grade III Treatment/ Grade III Distribution
3. Scott Tillman	8 years	Grade IV Treatment/ Grade III Distribution
4. Justin Frericks	7 years	Grade IV Treatment/ Grade IV Distribution
5. Clay Luschen	1 Year	Grade I Treatment/ Grade I Distribution
6. Kade Calhoun	1 Year	Grade I Treatment/ Grade I Distribution
7. Payton Kuchel	Started in August	Working on grade 1
8. Angie Kneip	17 years	Utility Billing and Collections

The water department operates the City of Le Mars water system which consists of over 90 miles of underground water main, 5102 water meters (up 45 from last year), 90 fire sprinklers in town, 722 fire hydrants , over 1878 main line valves, 2- one-million-gallon elevated water tanks, 1 - 1.5-million-gallon underground storage tank, over 1 million gallons in the distribution system, A 6 MGD Filtration Plant, 1 - high service pump station with a total of 4 pumps, 1 booster pump station w/ 4 pumps run in alteration, and 6 - Dakota Aquifer wells.

The Water Department also handles some locates for water and many service calls for various reasons, oversees cellular companies at the Le Mars water tower, moves snow at over 20 different locations in the downtown and surrounding areas, preform small capital projects, replaces valves and fire hydrants, changes water meters, customer service work orders, repairs emergency water main breaks, installs EZ valve for Le Mars & surrounding towns for a fee and performs many other in house maintenance tasks at a great cost savings to the citizens of Le Mars.

### Information of interest

Total metered water pumped from 6 wells for the year	1,209,847,000 gallons
Backwashes @ approximately 68,000 gallons per backwash	63,732,000 gallons
Backwash percentage of well water pumped	5.3%
Total metered water pumped into the distribution system	1,144,399,000 gallons
Average daily water pumped	3,125,917 gallons
Billed metered water for 2024	1,066,154,000 gallons
Flushing, WTP use, Hydrant meter sales, & other	14,282,152 gallons
Water used for testing equipment	10,775,620 gallons
Estimate for Leaks & fire dept. use for fires	4,000,000 gallons
City meters not billed down 21,000,000 from last year(golf)	15,507,300 gallons
Water from the fill station 144,163 was for city use	516,217 gallons
Difference between pumped and non-accountable water	33,163,711 gallons
Percentage of non-accountable gallons, <b>down from 5%</b>	3.1%
This is an acceptable percentage rate in the water industry.	

### Work Completed in 2024

**2023    2024**

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>
Number of locates performed by the Water Department	127	111
Water concerns	23	29
Work orders completed at Water Treatment Plant	1380	1730
Work orders completed for meters and customer service	238	166
Work orders for fire hydrant repaired, moved or replaced	730	928
Water tests	3941	3949
Meter replacements completed	51	196
New meters installed	46	56
Number of disconnect notices	2191	2346
Shut-off and collections	233	230
Water main breaks repaired	11	8
New valves added	11	9
Hours of snow moved in city with 3 pieces of equip	112	156
Finals and applications done	682	596
Service taps completed	20	28
Service leaks	7	12
Frozen meters	1	6
Call outs not including leaks	72	54
Service call with fee's	86	112

## Review of Gallons Pumped

2024	Ave. Daily Produced	Monthly Water Produced	Total Pumped from well
January	2,206,000	68,380,000	75,326,000
February	2,858,000	82,874,000	90,053,000
March	2,812,000	87,161,000	92,677,000
April	2,990,000	89,705,000	97,484,000
May	3,226,000	100,020,000	104,169,000
June	3,690,000	110,709,000	121,043,000
July	3,902,000	120,958,000	130,158,000
August	4,046,000	125,439,000	135,400,000
September	3,623,000	108,703,000	118,153,000
October	3,357,000	104,076,000	113,221,000
November	2,480,000	74,413,000	79,013,000
December	2,321,000	71,961,000	81,252,000

**Total**                      **1,144,399,000**      **1,236,309,000**  
**158,106,000 gallons less than last year**

Average gallons pumped per day for 2024 = 3,125,917 gallons, down 108,333 gallons per day from 2023

### Projects completed and work done in 2024.

1. Finished Lead & copper inventory for EPA. The due date is Oct. 2024.
2. Sent out over 1500 letters to citizens about Lead & copper. Most were non-responses. We have been getting a lot of calls from the letters we sent out.
3. Did all the testing requirements set by our DNR operating permit; (Synthetic (SOC) & volatile (VOC) Nitrate, Manganese, Nitrogen-Ammonia, Trihalomethanes, & Haloacetic Acids) plus some bacteria tests for businesses that request us to test for them.
4. Since we went over 10,000 in population we have to do extra water tests for the EPA. This time the tests were for PFAS, our results came back at 0, we were required to take them 2 times.
5. Worked with trailer parks & some apartments to get their meter up to date with radio read meters.
6. Performed lead & copper testing this year (30 sites this time, up from 20), passed.
7. Performed hydrant maintenance.
8. Eliminate 2 blocks of double main on 7<sup>th</sup> Ave SE between 3<sup>rd</sup> St & 6<sup>th</sup> St SE.
9. Added more EZ valves & redid some mains in the intersections in town.
10. Spring and fall water main flushing.



11. Monitored filter media (pull samples & check depths).
12. Pulled HSP # 2 & replaced the piping & bowl. Have HSP # 3 piping & bowl ordered for replacement.
13. Add 2 valves in front of the head box so we have more control of the treatment plant. Still need to get them wired up. It took a lot of prep work & 22 hours on a Sunday to get them installed. Big thanks to John Sailer for all his help on this.
14. Continue fixing valves in treatment plant.
15. Installed VFD's in wells 11 & 12.
16. Installed a new water line to the north campground.
17. Replaced 2 BLK of 4" water main with an 8" water main on HWY 75 north.
18. Installed 500' of 12" water main on Industrial Rd south of 27<sup>th</sup> St SW.
19. Replace fire hydrants & valves that are not functioning correctly.
20. Installed 4<sup>th</sup> booster pump at booster station.
21. Fill station was giving us issues. We had to replace the board.
22. Pulled booster pump #2 & had bearing replaced. Reinstalled & is back in service
23. Had a defective 8" water valve on the west side of the SICP. We put in an 8" EZ valve & removed the defective valve.
24. The flood caused our water main by the sewer plant to break. We have a valve on both sides of the river, unfortunately the break was on the wrong side of the valve. So, we had to put in a 12" EZ valve & then fix the leak. If we didn't do it this way the sewer plant would not have had water.
25. Viking tower company came & did the yearly maintenance on both towers. They also painted the bowl of tower #2.
26. Yearly hydrant maintenance is completed.
27. We have been working on painting & raising the fire hydrants this winter. Purchased a sandblaster so the hydrant paint will last longer.
28. Rebuilt 12" water valve on 16<sup>th</sup> Ave NW. Saved a lot of money by being able to rebuild it & not having to replace it.
29. Worked with Wells Inc. on fire flow tests at their plants.
30. Worked with Mc Clure's on the RO plant, new well & raw water line. All were awarded in Dec. & work will start in the spring of 2025.
31. Matt Walker came out to the shop & educated us on some of the fittings we have in the ground.
32. Put on a class for beginner operators at the request of the DNR. We had 41 operators attend.
33. Continue to work with contractors and other projects as they pertain to the water treatment and distribution system.
34. The water dept. removed the retaining wall around the treatment plant. It was going to cost \$50,000 if we let it be bid out with the RO plant project.



### **Work to be done in 2025.**

1. Work with Mc Clure & contractors on our 3 projects (RO plant, well #15 & Raw water line).
2. Do all the testing requirements set by our DNR operating permit.
3. Spring and fall water main flushing.
4. Monitor filter media (pull samples & check depths).
5. Replace HSP #3, we replaced #2 last year & everything was shot. #3 is the same age & the hours are very close.
6. Continue replacing fire hydrants & valves that are not functioning correctly.
7. Add EZ valve in areas where we can't isolate the water mains.
8. Rehab Well #10.
9. Paint fire hydrants.
10. Install VFD in well #14.
11. Continue to work with contractors and other projects as they pertain to the water treatment and distribution system.

*Saving lives one gallon at a time.*