JOPLIN AREA CHAMBER / MOKAN
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT UPDATE
MAY 2025

The City of Joplin's investment enables the Joplin Area Chamber and MOKAN to increase capacity regarding promotion of the city as a place to do business, as well as to live, work and raise a family to potential workers. It also expands opportunities for more access to state and national resources, leaders and markets through conferences, mission trips with the Missouri Partnership and advertising mediums. Activities carried out in the previous quarter are as follows:

BUSINESS ATTRACTION:

RFI's

- 10 received in Q2
- 2 submitted on behalf of City of Joplin
- 4 submitted for MOKAN region

Projects Submitted Since Previous Report:

Project Aurora

- Food Manufacturing
- 157 full-time jobs with avg wage of 30.18/hr
- $233 million capital investment
- 30+ acres
- Submitted Crossroads site

Project Coco

- Advanced Manufacturing
- 200 full-time jobs
- $800 million capital investment over two phases
- 150 acres, brownfields considered
- Submitted Mi Tierra site

Active Projects

Project Level (Attraction)

- Company that works in the repairment of basement foundations
- 50 full-time jobs with avg salary of $100,000-$110,000
- 5 acres greenfield
- Site visits in Neosho and Sarcoxie

Project MPWildwood (Attraction)

- Data Center
- 2 new full-time jobs
- Purchasing 10 acres at Wildwood Ranch

MARKETING & PROMOTIONS OF JOPLIN ACTIVITIES:

- **MOKAN Website – Redesign will launch June 2025**
- **MOKAN LinkedIn - Maintaining regular posting schedule**
- **MOKAN Regional Promotional Video – Locations currently being selected for filming to start in June**

- **Choose Joplin Website (2024 data)**
  - 6,136 Sessions
  - 4,461 Active Users
  - 57,793 Event Counts (a user taking action on the site; clicking or scrolling)
  - Top pages viewed:
    - Parks & Trails https://www.choosejoplin.com/parks-trails
    - Life in Joplin post, Joplin recognized as best place to live in Missouri (this post was originated from Livability that we added to the Choose Joplin blog) https://www.choosejoplin.com/post/joplin-recognized-as-best-place-to-live-in-missouri
    - Cost of Living calculator https://www.choosejoplin.com/cost-of-living
    - Life in Joplin post, City of Joplin shares list of holiday activities https://www.choosejoplin.com/post/city-of-joplin-shares-list-of-festival-holiday-activities-for-2024-holiday-season

- **Livability.com**
  - Livability is a company that specializes in attracting workforce and talent who are actively looking to relocate using targeted ad placements directed at people searching destinations online who enter in specific key words
  - They publish 10 articles over a year span designed to showcase Joplin and the advantages of linving here
  - Article examples:
    - Discover Joplin's Neighborhoods
    - How I Got Connected to My Community
    - Joplin is Perfect for Families
  - Please visit the page https://livability.com/mo/joplin/ to view

- **Billboard**
  - We continue to promote positive vibes and awareness of the Joplin community to passers-by on I-44
  - The current ad features the 4 college institutions located in Joplin

EVENTS ATTENDED:

- **Hawthorn Foundation Board Meeting** **Fulton – Feb 27-28**
  - Amy Kauffman attended

- Received updates of the previous quarter's statewide business attraction efforts by the Hawthorn Foundation and Missouri Partnership as well as from Gov. Kehoe

- **OU Economic Development Institute** **Kansas City – April 27- May 2**
  - Professional certification and education for Amy Kauffman
  - The premiere training program for professional economic developers
  - The program is three sessions with each taking a full week
  - There are approximately six months between each session
  - Courses attended in session1: Real Estate Redevelopment and Credit Analysis

ENTREPRENEURSHIP

ATTC and NIC Incubators

- Success story - two former start-ups utilizing the incubators recently launched their own brick and mortar storefront
  - EZ-Cuisine and Mac's Cinnamon Rolls and Baked Goods have partnered up to open a strefront at 2313 W 7th Street
  - Both had previously operated out of the ATTC commercial kitchen space

- There is currently one open office space in the NIC

EXPANSION & RETENTION

- **Manufacturers Roundtable**
  - Quarterly event
  - The 3rd roundtable took place March 5th
  - The primary topic of discussion was around Proposition A and the potential for a legislative amendment (*still pending as of this report*)
    - Prop A was passed by the voters approval state-wide during the previous November election and went into effect May 1
    - It was promoted as a minimum wage increase proposal however it included multiple elements of PTO requirements which prompted a law suit filed by multiple business groups and associations – the MO Supreme Court recently heard the case but allowed the proposal to proceed as presented on the ballot
    - The House passed a bill that amends some of Prop A however it was recently filibustered in the Senate when it was up for a vote and Senate members are trying to work on a solution that will garner enough support for a change in the now law
  - The roundtables are an opportunity for reps from our largest job providers to come together and collectively share common headwinds and tailwinds and to look for potential resolutions, as well as for the Chamber to share relevant data, economic trends and information gleaned from various sources and agencies
  - The Chamber then uses the feedback to prioritize focus areas, potential programming and potential talking points to share with elected officials
  - The next roundtable takes place June 11th at the Chamber

- **Kai Hamilton**
  - Workforce Development specialist has left the Chamber
  - After a little more than a year in the role, he made the decision that economic development was not the career path he wanted to continue with
  - There are no immediate plans to replace the position, but we will reassess in a few months

JIDA

- Currently working with EPA to design a plan for contaminated soil remediation
- Approximately 70 of the 330 acres has contaminants
- Bids by the EPA to have the contaminated soil relocated and fresh soil brought in came back quite a bit higher than expected – Kurt Higgins with Allgeier Martin has proposed a site development plan where existing noncontaminated soil from the site is utilized to cover the contaminated areas and cap it – the next step is to have EPA review this site plan and approve or offer alternatives

MISCELLANEOUS

- The Hawthorn Foundation will be hosting their next quarterly meeting in Joplin
  - The organization hosts each qtrly meeting in a different geographic location around the state
  - Joplin will be the host of approximately 100 Hawthorn members, MOPAR and MDED representatives from around the state and on Friday, June 6th
  - The business meeting will take place that morning at KCU

- **Current Unemployment Rate (Mar 2025)**
  - US 4.2%
  - MO 3.8%
  - Joplin 4.2%

  Source: https://www.bls.gov/eag/eag.mo_joplin_msa.htm#eag_mo_joplin_msa.f.1

- **Current County Average Wages**
  - Jasper $48,412 $23.28/hr
  - Newton $52,104 $25.05/hr
  - MO $62,556 $30.08/hr

  Source: https://ded.mo.gov/media/pdf/county-average-wages

	Building		Capital			Acres		Sq Ft	
Proj	or Land	Rail	Investment	Jobs	Wages	Min	Max	Min	Max
1	Building	No				4	5	86,000	152,000
2	Land	Pref				700	1300		
3	Either	No	$115	200		20		200,000	
4	Either	No	$16	200	$50K			150,000	250,000
5	Land	Required	$250	400		150	200		
6	Land	No	$550	388	$55K	300	1000		
7	Land	No				150	200		
8	Land	No		50	$100K	5			
9	Either	No	$126	62	$67K	15	30		
10	Building	No						500,000	1 M
11	Building	No	$10	20				10,000	
12	Land	Required		350		200	600		
13	Land	No	$160	250		40	50		
14	Land	No	$700	2500		140	160		
15	Land	No	$1,000	500		330			
16	Land	Required	$10	10	$50K	5	10		
17	Land	No	$4,000	800	$120K	150			
18	Land	No	$300	400		50			
19	Land	Pref	$800	190		120	150		
20	Land	No		3000		75	125		
21	Building	No	$11	80	$57K			20,000	30,000
22	Land	Required	$480	630		60			
23	Land	No	$4	10		15			
24	Land	No	$2,300	2000	$54K	100	150		
25	Building	No	$25	650	$67K	15		180,000	
26	Land	Required	$25	12		15	40		

Proximity	Electric			Gas		
to Interstate	Initial	End	Water	Gas	Max	Waste Water
5						
1	250 MW		3m gpd	1,500dk/hr		3 mg/d
	6 MW		500 k/d	6,000 mcf/mo	5 psi	320,000 gal/d
	3 MW					
1	10 MW	15 MW	1.7m gpd			700,000 gal/d
	12 MW		90,000 gpd	2,000 Nm3/hr		80,000 gal/d
	Min					
3	16 MW		1.6m gpd	51 MMBTU/hr		500,000 gal/d
	50 MW	100 MW				
1	78 MW		4.8m gpd	2.5 m decatherms		3.6 mg/d
10	14 MW			70,000 CFH	15 psi	250,000 gal/d
10	20 MW	30 MW	2.5m gpd	725,000 CFH	20 psi	2.5m gpd
	22,150,632 kwh/mo		22,000 gpd	4" line or more		2,220 gpd
	50 MW	80 MW	750,000 gpd	670 MMBtu		600,000 gpd
	18 MW		18.7 MMg/mo	4.7 MM Ccfs/mo		19.4 MM g/mo
1	12 MW		300,000 gpd	LNG		200,000 gpd
5	47 MVA		475,000 gpd	24 MMBtu/hr		225,000 gpd
1	50K kwk/m					
	15 MW		210,000 gpd	14.4965m3/day	28 psi	200,000 gpd
	72 MW			10,000 Nm3/h		
15	7.259 kW					
5	1,829 kVA		12,500 gpd	30.3 MMBtu/h	195K CCF/y	3,920 gpd