CITY OF JOPLIN
COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM

ITEM
Council Bill 2023-142– Approving an agreement with Missouri American Water for leasing property for Grand Falls Trail project.

MEETING DATE
August 7, 2023

ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT
Public Works Department – Dan Johnson
Parks and Recreation – Paul Bloomberg

ATTACHMENTS
Council Bill No. 2023-142; Ordinance; Exhibit "A" Missouri American Water lease agreements; Exhibit "B" – Map of property; Exhibit "C" – Property legal descriptions

REVIEWED BY
Parks Director Paul Bloomberg; City Attorney Peter Edwards; Finance Director Leslie Haase; Assistant City Manager Tony Robyn; Public Works Director Dan Johnson; City Manager Nicholas Edwards.

SUMMARY
This Council Bill approves lease agreement between Missouri American Water and the City of Joplin for the purpose of constructing the Grand Falls Trail, along with an overlook, restrooms, and parking area.

BACKGROUND
Historically, Grand Falls has been a recreational draw for residents and our area communities. It has been listed by the State Historical Society of Missouri as the state's tallest continuously flowing natural waterfall. In August of 2011, voters renewed the Parks and Storm Water ¼ cent Sales Tax, which includes the Grand Falls Trail project. The city is also applying for a State of Missouri Outdoor Recreation grant for the overlook, restrooms and parking area. This lease agreement will allow the City of Joplin to provide a new and amazing opportunity for Grand Falls and those who visit. It will provide not only more recreational and educational opportunities for our community, but also provide connectivity to the trail network. The proposed project will include a trail head from low water bridge, a one-mile paved trail for pedestrians and bicyclists to safely access Grand Falls, an overlook, restrooms, and parking for visitors. With this lease agreement, the improvements will result in a more sustainable facility that meets public use and accessibility standards.

FUNDING SOURCE
Missouri Department of Conservation Outdoor Recreation Grant and Parks Storm Water ¼ cent Sales Tax

RECOMMENDATION
Staff recommends this Council Bill be placed on an Emergency basis.