REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS

2026 WATER AND SEWER RATE STUDY
AND
INTEGRATED INFRASTRUCTURE MASTER PLAN

July 2, 2026

GEWALT HAMILTON ASSOCIATES, INC.
An Employee-Owned Company
625 Forest Edge Drive - Vernon Hills, IL 60061
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GHA GEWALT HAMILTON ASSOCIATES, INC.
CONSULTING ENGINEERS

625 Forest Edge Drive - Vernon Hills, IL 60061
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July 2, 2026

Alex Voigt
City Administrator
City of Geneva
22 S. First Street
Geneva, IL 60134

Re: REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS **– Engineering and Financial Services**
2026 Water & Sewer Rate Study and Integrated Infrastructure Master Plan
GHA Proposal No. 2026.M048

Dear Ms. Voigt and the City of Geneva,

The City of Geneva is seeking a team that can connect utility rate evaluation, pavement planning, stormwater and utility infrastructure needs, and long-range capital improvement planning into one clear and implementable framework. GHA can help the City turn those parallel needs into a coordinated strategy that supports sound financial planning, reduces redundant construction, prioritizes the right improvements, and gives staff a practical roadmap for both near-term and long-term investment.

Our team brings direct municipal experience in the planning, funding, and delivery of roadway, water, sewer, and drainage improvements. I will serve as Client Manager, Team Leader, and Financial Services Lead, drawing on more than 14 years with the Village of Buffalo Grove, where I helped lead the Village's $400 million Infrastructure Modernization Program and managed annual capital improvements ranging from $3 million to $50 million across engineering, water, sewer, and drainage functions. Darren Monico, serving in QA/QC, adds senior municipal engineering leadership from Buffalo Grove and Barrington, including capital improvement programming, infrastructure maintenance, development review, and construction management. Our team will also include Krystian Powala, P.E., CFM, as Water Resources Technical Advisor to provide focused expertise in drainage-study evaluation, stormwater capital prioritization, resiliency, and regulatory considerations.

GHA understands that Geneva is not simply seeking reports, but a decision-making tool that aligns financial sustainability, infrastructure condition, and project timing across multiple systems. We would welcome the opportunity to help the City develop a practical, phased plan that supports reliable service, informed budgeting, and efficient capital investment.

Sincerely,
Gewalt Hamilton Associates, Inc.

Kyle Johnson, P.E., CFM, MBA
224.292.4092 ★ KJohnson@GHA-Engineers.com

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Why GHA for Geneva:

- Municipal utility and capital-program leadership
- Rate/funding decisions tied to actual infrastructure need
- Stormwater and pavement coordination to reduce repeat construction
- GIS-based tools that staff can maintain annually

FIRM INFORMATION

FIRM NAME/ OFFICE IN CHARGE



★ CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS & OFFICE IN CHARGE

VERNON HILLS

625 Forest Edge Drive
Vernon Hills, IL 60061

847.478.9700

https://www.gha-engineers.com/



SCHAUMBURG OFFICE

425 N. Martingale Road
Schaumburg, IL 60193

847.478.9700

Full Service Office



KANSAS OFFICE

9765Widmer Road
Lenexa, KS 66215

847.478.9700

Traffic Data Collection

This office structure allows Gewalt Hamilton Associates, Inc. to provide local service, regional resources, and national expertise.

FIRM STRUCTURE/SIZE/YEARS IN BUSINESS

- STRUCTURE: ESOP, Corporation
- EMPLOYEES: 160
- FOUNDED: 1981

PRINCIPALS OF THE FIRM

- CEO: Todd Gordon, P.E., MBA
- President/COO: Arthur Penn, P.E.
- Vice-President/Principal: Don Matthews, P.E., CFM
- Corporate Secretary: K. David Marquardt

ORGANIZATIONAL DESCRIPTION

GHA is multi-disciplinary engineering firm providing planning, design and construction engineering services for municipal infrastructure, water resources, transportation and site development projects.

FIRM'S PHILOSOPHY

We build lasting relationships by delivering innovative solutions that improve communities. Our commitment to integrity, responsiveness, and technical excellence guides every project we undertake.

RELEVANT HISTORY OF THE TEAM

Kyle Johnson & Darren Monico previously held key positions with the Village of Buffalo Grove, with Mr. Monico also serving the Village of Barrington, ***giving them firsthand experience with utility operations, capital improvement programming, roadway and drainage infrastructure, regulatory coordination, and long-range municipal planning***. This background strengthens GHA's capabilities for municipal & related rate studies, including utility system evaluation, asset and lifecycle planning, infrastructure prioritization, funding strategy coordination, and implementation support; GHA has also recently completed a water rate analysis for the Village of Buffalo Grove.

FINANCIAL CAPABILITY/REGULATORY ACTIONS/LITIGATION

- Strong financial position with net worth in excess of $15 M.
- No pending regulatory action
- Case No. 021 L 000360, Circuit Court of the 19th Judicial Circuit, Lake County, Illinois – personal injury claim involving an alleged construction-zone incident on a non-workday.
- Patricia Simon v. Wynstone Property Owner's Association, Inc., et al. – multi-party litigation in which GHA has been named among several defendants by a resident's contractor.

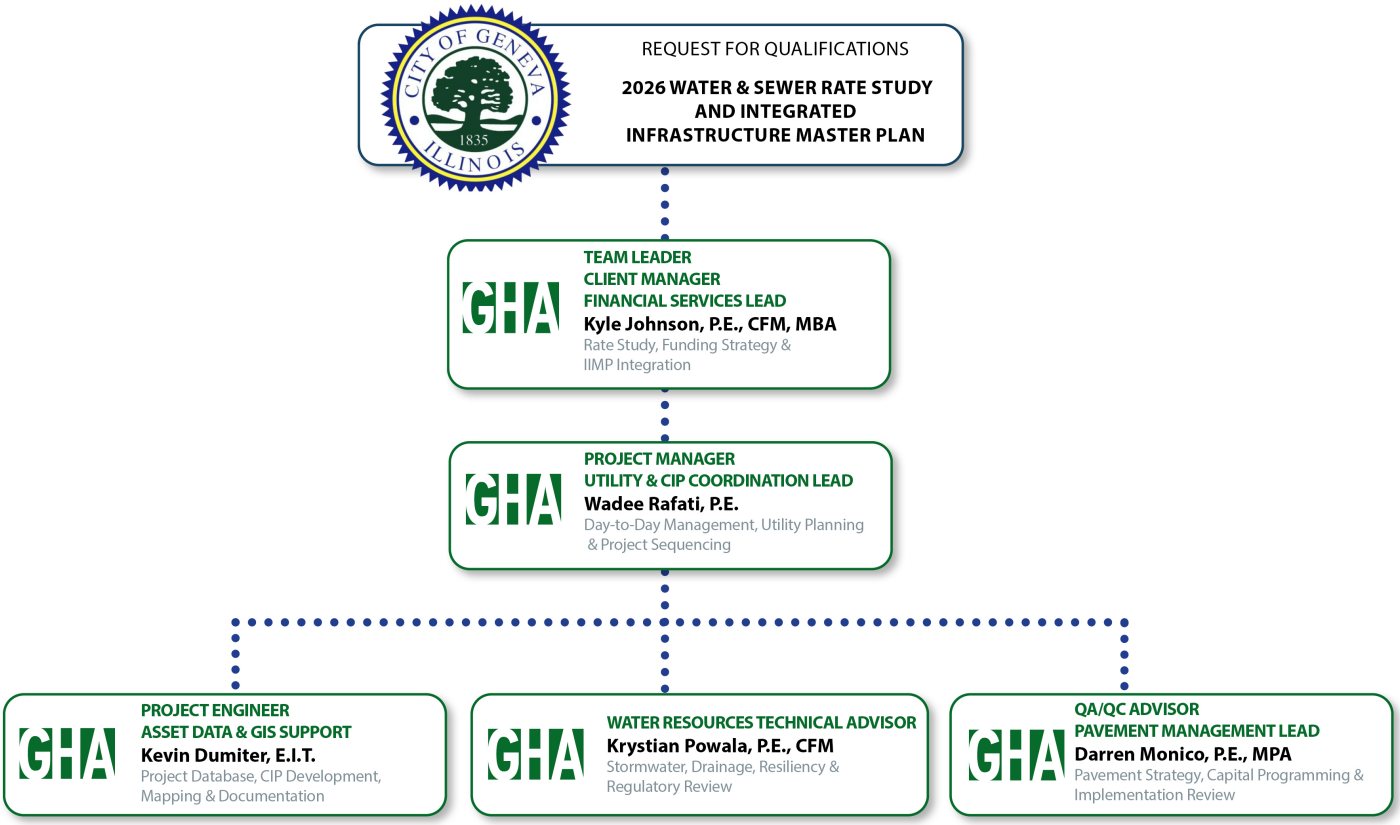
INSURANCE COVERAGE APPLICABLE TO THE WORK

- General Liability (Occurrence): $2M per occurrence
- Automobile Liability: $2M combined single limit
- Professional Liability (Errors & Omissions): $2M per claim
- Workers' Compensation: Statutory/Employers Liability: $1M

Certificates of Insurance furnished upon request

PROJECT PERSONNEL AND EXPERIENCE

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART





TEAM LEADER

Kyle Johnson, P.E., CFM, MBA

FIRM REGISTRATION

Gewalt Hamilton Associates, Inc. is registered in the State of Illinois to provide professional engineering services & is authorized as a Professional Design Firm under the IL Department of Financial & Professional Regulation (IDFPR).


State of Illinois
Department of Financial and Professional Regulation
Division of Professional Regulation
LICENSE NO. 184.000922-0010 035.003341
EXPIRES 04/30/2027
DESIGN FIRM - LAND SURVEYOR/PROF ENG
GEWALT-HAMILTON ASSOCIATES INC
625 FOREST EDGE DR
VERNON HILLS, IL 60061-4104
MARIO TRETO, JR. SECRETARY
CARLE LINDSAY DIRECTOR
The official status of this license can be verified at IDFPR.illinois.gov

CLIENT MANAGER/TEAM LEADER



Kyle Johnson, P.E., CFM, MBA

Market Lead Government Operations
Direct: 224.292.4092 | KJohnson@GHA-Engineers.com

Education

Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering, Bradley University, 2009

Bachelor of Science in Construction Management, 2009

Master of Business Administration, North Park University, 2017

Professional Registration

State of Illinois Licensed Professional Engineer #062.065530

Certified Floodplain Manager IL-16-00774

IEPA Class C – Public Water Supply Operator #279359999

IEPA Collection System Wastewater Treatment Works Operator #279359999

30 Hour OSHA Certified

Illinois Public Service Institute Graduate, 2019

Midwest Leadership Institute Graduate, 2023

Experience

Before joining GHA, Mr. Johnson spent more than 14 years with the Village of Buffalo Grove, where he advanced to Deputy Public Works Director/Village Engineer and helped lead the Village's $400M Infrastructure Modernization Program. He managed capital improvements ranging from $3M to $50M annually, oversaw engineering, water, sewer, and drainage functions, served as Responsible Operator in Charge for the public water supply, and supported asset management, GIS integration, lifecycle planning & grant administration.

Buffalo Grove Infrastructure Modernization Program

Integrated Water, Sewer, Drainage, and Public Works Capital Planning

- Led annual capital delivery of $3M-$50M across utility & infrastructure programs
- Coordinated interdepartmental planning, grant funding, and regulatory compliance

Delivered as Deputy Public Works Director/Village Engineer on a $400M modernization effort

Water Utility Operations and Compliance Leadership

Public Water Supply Operations, Compliance, and Capital Planning

- Served as Responsible Operator in Charge for a municipal water system
- Linked operational compliance with long-range capital and funding decisions

Supported sustainable utility management through regulatory oversight and infrastructure planning

Drainage, Sewer, and Public Works Coordination

Integrated Sewer, Drainage, and Utility Capital Implementation

- Oversaw Engineering, Sewer, Drainage, and Water functions within Public Works
- Coordinated capital improvements across departments and service areas

Delivered infrastructure projects that balanced system needs, constructability, and long-term serviceability

GIS-Based Asset Management and Lifecycle Planning

Asset Management, Lifecycle Modeling, and Infrastructure Prioritization

- Advanced GIS-based asset management tools and workflows
- Introduced asset valuation and lifecycle cost modeling to guide investment decisions

Strengthened long-term capital planning through data-driven infrastructure management

Grant Funding and Capital Delivery

Infrastructure Funding Strategy and Project Implementation Support

- Secured and administered more than $50M in grant funding for municipal priorities
- Supported planning, budgeting, and delivery of major capital improvements

Enhanced project feasibility by aligning funding sources with infrastructure needs

PROJECT MANAGER



Education
Bachelor of Science, Civil Engineering, Marquette University, Milwaukee, WI 2015

Professional Registration
Illinois Licensed Professional Engineer #062-071676

Wisconsin Licensed Professional Engineer #47039-6

Software Proficiency
ArcGIS & GIS Online
Civil 3D
AutoCAD
Microsoft Access
Microsoft Excel
Microsoft Word
Microsoft PowerPoint
Sharepoint

Wadee Rafati, P.E.

Professional Engineer

Direct: 847.821.6262 | WRafati@GHA-Engineers.com

Experience

Mr. Rafati is a Professional Engineer with municipal project management experience spanning stormwater, sanitary sewer, water main, roadway drainage, and capital improvement planning. Before joining GHA, he served with the City of Milwaukee's Environmental Engineering Section, where he supported the City's annual $27 million sewer rehabilitation program, infiltration and inflow reduction efforts, and major flood mitigation projects. His experience coordinating utility, drainage, and municipal infrastructure improvements is well aligned with Geneva's integrated planning approach.

District Engineer, Northfield Woods Sanitary District

Sanitary Sewer System Management, Capital Planning, and Sewer Design

- Perform annual evaluation and update of the District's sewer user rates, including financial analysis, budget development, and long-term revenue planning.
- Provide engineering services for sanitary sewer rehabilitation and replacement projects, including system evaluation, design, permitting, bidding, and construction administration.
- Conduct condition assessments of the collection system to identify maintenance needs, prioritize capital improvements, and support long-term asset management.
- Advise the District Board on engineering, regulatory compliance, capital improvement programming, and infrastructure investment strategies.
- Coordinate with contractors, utility agencies, regulatory authorities, and District staff to support ongoing operation and maintenance of the sanitary sewer system.

Serve as District Engineer responsible for the planning, operation, and management of the District's sanitary sewer collection system

Sanitary Sewer Replacement Program, Lake County Public Works

Sanitary System Renewal and Capital Project Management

- Served as Project Manager for multiple sanitary sewer improvement projects within a county-wide program
- Directed analysis, design, and construction for gravity sewer, force main, and interceptor structure rehabilitation

Program work included replacement of over 1,600 feet of sanitary sewer and 10,000+ feet of sanitary force main

Knollwood Subdivision Flood Mitigation Project, Lake County SMC

Neighborhood-Scale Flood Mitigation and Roadway/Drainage Improvements

- Managed an approximately $2M flood mitigation project integrating road raising, drainage path preservation, and stormwater systems
- Oversaw storm sewer and swale design, grant facilitation, permitting, bidding, and construction engineering

Delivered for Lake County Stormwater Management Commission with a focus on neighborhood resilience and drainage performance

QUALITY ASSURANCE/QUALITY CONTROL



Darren Monico, P.E., MPA

Market Lead – Capital Improvement Programs

Direct: 847.821.6243 | DMonico@GHA-Engineers.com

Education

Bachelor of Science, Ag. Engineering, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 1995

Master of Public Administration, University of Illinois at Springfield, 2021

Professional Registration

State of Illinois Licensed Professional Engineer #062-059296

Memberships

American Public Works Association

American Society of Civil Engineers

Illinois State American Water Works Association Veterans/Education Committee member

North Suburban Water Works Association

Illinois Public Service Institute Graduate, 2013

Midwest Leadership Institute Graduate, 2022

Experience

Mr. Monico is a Professional Engineer with extensive municipal experience in capital improvement programming, utility and roadway infrastructure, drainage review, development services, and construction management. He previously served as Village Engineer for Buffalo Grove and Assistant Director of Engineering and Building for Barrington, where he oversaw road and utility projects, capital planning, grant coordination, and infrastructure review. His background in municipal engineering oversight and implementation is well aligned with a QA/QC role for Geneva's integrated planning process.

Infrastructure Modernization Program, Buffalo Grove

Long-range CIP and Interdepartmental Infrastructure Planning

- Supported twenty-year infrastructure planning across multiple village departments
- Coordinated capital improvement priorities involving roads, utilities, and broader public works systems

Delivered as part of Buffalo Grove's integrated infrastructure modernization effort

Water Main Infrastructure Replacement Plan, Barrington

Utility Replacement Planning and Municipal Infrastructure Renewal

- Led planning for replacement of aging water main infrastructure
- Supported capital prioritization and implementation of utility system improvements

Advanced long-term reliability of the Village's water distribution system

Neighborhood Drainage Projects, Buffalo Grove and Barrington

Local Drainage Evaluation and Municipal Stormwater Improvements

- Reviewed and advanced neighborhood-scale drainage improvement projects
- Coordinated responses to drainage concerns with practical municipal implementation strategies

Supported community-focused stormwater and infrastructure problem solving

Lake Cook Road Reconstruction, Buffalo Grove

Major Roadway Reconstruction with Utility and Agency Coordination

- Participated in phased reconstruction for a high-profile corridor project with Cook County DOTH and the Village of Buffalo Grove
- Coordinated municipal engineering review, infrastructure considerations, and implementation support

Helped deliver a complex multi-phase transportation improvement project

Thompson-Brandywyn Reconstruction, Buffalo Grove

Local Roadway Reconstruction and Grant-Funded Capital Delivery

- Supported multi-phase local road reconstruction funded in part through STP assistance
- Managed municipal coordination across design, funding, and implementation considerations

Advanced a $15 million neighborhood infrastructure improvement program

WATER RESOURCES TECHNICAL ADVISOR



Krystian Powala, P.E., CFM

Director of Water Resources
Direct: 224.352.2803 | KPowala@GHA-Engineers.com

Education
Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign 2011

Master of Science in Civil Engineering, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign 2013

Professional Registration
State of Illinois Licensed Professional Engineer #062.072254

Certified Floodplain Manager

Memberships
Environmental & Water Resources Institute

Experience

Mr. Powala is a Professional Engineer and Certified Floodplain Manager with extensive experience in municipal stormwater master planning, hydrologic and hydraulic modeling, flood-risk reduction, regulatory permitting, green infrastructure, and stakeholder coordination. He will serve as GHA's **Water Resources Technical Advisor**, providing senior technical review of drainage-study recommendations, stormwater capital priorities, implementation constraints, resiliency opportunities, and regulatory considerations.

His experience developing long-range drainage solutions, evaluating alternatives, prioritizing flooding concerns, and integrating technical findings into GIS-based planning tools aligns directly with Geneva's goal of updating its stormwater capital program and coordinating improvements with roadway and utility investments.

Stormwater and Sanitary Master Plan, Bloomington & Bloomington-Normal
Citywide Stormwater, Sanitary Sewer, and Flood-Risk Planning

- Led 1D/2D ICM model development and alternatives analysis for a citywide stormwater and sanitary master plan.
- Helped evaluate long-term solutions for combined-sewer flooding areas and assess smart-sewer technology for relief sewers.

Supported coordination between the City and Water Reclamation District and helped rank urban flooding problem areas based on potential for cost-effective solutions.

Stormwater Master Plan, Village of Glenview
Villagewide Stormwater Planning, Modeling, and GIS Integration

- Served as technical and QA/QC lead for a villagewide stormwater master plan.
- Planned, coordinated, and reviewed 1D/2D modeling of the Village's stormwater infrastructure and river systems

Developed modeling and inundation information intended for use in the Village's GIS system and future capital-project planning.

Flossmoor Road Viaduct Drainage Improvements, Village of Flossmoor
Flood Mitigation, Alternative Evaluation, and Multi-Phase Implementation

- Led XPSWMM modeling and conceptual design to address longstanding flooding at the Flossmoor Road Viaduct along Berry Lane.

Recommended a cost-effective, multi-phase solution and supported funding, permitting, agency coordination, and private-property stakeholder coordination involving ACOE, IEPA, MWRD, and IDNR.

Stormwater Master Plan, Butterfield Creek Study Area (MWRD)
Regional Stormwater Master Planning and Flood Mitigation

- Led development of a regional stormwater master plan for the 23.5-square mile Butterfield Creek watershed serving multiple south Cook County communities.
- Evaluated flooding problem areas, developed conceptual improvement alternatives, and prioritized capital projects to address roadway, overland, and sewer flooding.

Coordinated with municipalities, MWRD, IDOT, and Cook County agencies to establish implementation strategies, funding opportunities, and long-term watershed resiliency goals.

PROJECT ENGINEER



Education
Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering, Cum Laude, Iowa State University, 2025

Professional Registration
State of Illinois Licensed Professional Engineer Intern #061.043386

Memberships
American Society of Civil Engineers

Order of the Engineer

American Concrete Institute

Kevin Dumiter, EIT

Civil Engineer
Direct: 847.630.9772 | KDumiter@GHA-Engineers.com

Experience

Mr. Dumiter is a Civil Engineer with GHA who supports municipal utility, drainage, roadway, and site-infrastructure projects from planning and design through permitting and construction documentation. His experience includes water and sanitary sewer improvements, storm sewer and drainage design, roadway and pavement coordination, municipal permitting, GIS-based data support, and construction-phase documentation. For Geneva, Kevin will support the project team through infrastructure and asset data compilation, review of existing plans and studies, CIP project development, GIS/Story Map coordination, cost and phasing documentation, and preparation of implementation materials.

Columbia Bay Sanitary Force Main Replacement, Lake County Public Works
Sanitary Utility Replacement and Agency Coordination

- Supported design of replacement improvements for an aging sanitary force main serving the Columbia Bay Road Area
- Prepared construction documents, coordinated utilities, developed quantities and estimates, and assisted with permitting

Supported coordination with Lake County Public Works, Lake Villa Township, IEPA, and IDOT to advance a critical utility-replacement project through design.

Alleghany Road Sanitary Sewer Extension, Village of Grayslake
Wastewater Service Expansion and Infrastructure Planning

- Supported design and permitting for a sanitary sewer extension serving existing residents along Alleghany Road.
- Assisted with roadway-crossing design, utility-conflict evaluation, wetland-impact coordination, plan preparation, profiles, and agency-review responses.

Contributed to a municipal utility project requiring coordination with NSWRD, LCDOT, IEPA, and other stakeholders.

Municipal Roadway, Pavement and Utility Coordination
Surface Infrastructure and Underground Asset Coordination

- Supported roadway resurfacing, reconstruction, drainage, and pavement-improvement projects for municipal and public-sector clients.
- Assisted with grading, drainage, utility coordination, pavement-restoration layouts, and construction documents, including emergency pavement restoration following water main repair work.

Brought practical experience identifying the coordination points between roadway work, drainage improvements, and underground utilities.

Municipal MS4 Inspection and Asset Documentation Support
Stormwater Compliance and GIS-Ready Infrastructure Data

- Supported MS4 inspections of municipal stormwater infrastructure, outfalls, and detention facilities for communities throughout northeastern Illinois.
- Documented field conditions, maintenance needs, and water-quality concerns to support municipal compliance and annual reporting.

Organized field and asset information into usable stormwater planning tools.

INTEGRATED MUNICIPAL INFRASTRUCTURE EXPERIENCE

GHA has assembled a multidisciplinary municipal infrastructure team to help Geneva integrate utility financial planning, water and sewer infrastructure needs, stormwater improvements, pavement management, and long-range capital programming into one practical decision-making framework.

Kyle Johnson, P.E., CFM, MBA, will serve as Client Manager, Team Leader, and Financial Services Lead. Drawing on more than 14 years of municipal public works and utility leadership with the Village of Buffalo Grove, Kyle brings direct experience connecting water-system operations, capital planning, asset management, grant funding, and long-term infrastructure investment decisions. His background will guide the integration of water and sewer rate recommendations, reserve and funding strategies, debt considerations, and capital-program priorities.

Wadee Rafati, P.E., will serve as Project Manager and lead day-to-day coordination of the utility, drainage, and capital-planning work. His experience includes municipal sewer rehabilitation, flood-mitigation planning, storm sewer improvements, roadway-drainage coordination, and construction-phase implementation. Darren Monico, P.E., MPA, will provide QA/QC and senior guidance related to pavement management, roadway and utility coordination, capital programming, and municipal implementation.

Krystian Powala, P.E., CFM, will provide focused technical support for the stormwater component of the work, including review of Geneva's existing drainage-study recommendations, drainage-project prioritization, resiliency considerations, hydrologic and hydraulic issues, and permitting or implementation constraints. Kevin Dumiter, EIT, will support asset-data compilation, GIS and Story Map coordination, review of existing infrastructure information, CIP project development, and documentation of project costs, phasing, and coordination opportunities.

Together, the team brings experience in municipal water, sanitary sewer, stormwater, pavement, drainage, asset management, GIS, capital improvement programming, grant coordination, permitting, and public-sector implementation. For Geneva, that means recommendations will be shaped not only by technical analysis, but by practical experience in identifying infrastructure needs, coordinating improvements, evaluating funding options, and advancing projects from planning through construction.

Geneva will benefit from one accountable team that connects rate and funding decisions with the timing, condition, and coordination needs of its utility, drainage, and pavement assets.

Current Projects for the Proposed Personnel

The proposed team has dedicated availability for Geneva's planning milestones and Council presentations. Work will be coordinated across the team to maintain continuity from kickoff through final adoption.

Personnel	Current Projects	Complete	Date of Expected Completion
Kyle Johnson	Northwoods Phase II Design	70%	12/31/26
	Mill Creek Phase II Design	70%	12/31/26
	Northern Old Lake County Construction	80%	9/4/26
	Capital Improvement Planning	10%	3/15/27
	Supplemental Engineering Services	Ongoing	Continuous
Wadee Rafati	CMAP – Burnham Capital Improvement	50%	4/30/27
	West Leyden High School Sanitary Sewer	90%	10/31/26
	Propsect Heights – Flood Control Project	90%	4/30/27
	Wheeling – NE Prairie Preserve Bike Path	90%	8/31/26
	Northbrook – Lee Road Water Main	50%	4/30/27
	Northfield Woods Sanitary District	Ongoing	Continuous
Darren Monico	Parking Lot Improvements Design	50%	7/31/26
	Parking Lot Construction Observation	0%	10/31/26
	Road Program Construction Observation	0%	10/31/26
	Road Program Construction Observation	20%	10/31/26
	Road Program Construction Observation	20%	10/31/26
	Road Program Construction Observation	0%	10/31/26
	Supplemental Engineering Services	Ongoing	Continuous
Krystian Powala	Mundelein Park District Wetland Banks	60%	5/31/27
	N Flint Creek Tributary Improvements	80%	12/31/26
	MS4 Program	10%	5/31/26
	Supplemental Engineering Services	Ongoing	Continuous
Kevin Dumiter	Capital Improvement Planning	10%	3/15/27
	Alleghany Road Sanitary Sewer	80%	8/4/26
	Wood Oaks Green North Improvements	10%	11/30/26
	Columbia Bay Road Force Main	90%	9/1/26
	District 87 - Glenbard North PH 2	90%	8/21/26
	District 87 - Glenbard South PH 2	40%	10/05/26

RELEVANT FIRM QUALIFICATIONS

GHA's experience with water rate studies extends beyond financial modeling. We understand that the most effective studies are those that staff can confidently explain and Boards can comfortably support. Our team has helped communities validate existing rates, plan gradual adjustments, and align revenues with long-term system needs all while maintaining public trust.

Kyle Johnson's municipal experience is particularly relevant to Geneva's needs. ***Kyle has been in your shoes*** and understands how rate studies intersect with budgeting cycles, capital planning, and Board expectations. This insight helps ensure the study supports, rather than complicates, internal decision-making.

RELEVANT PROJECT EXPERIENCE

GHA has a proven record of helping Illinois municipalities ensure the financial sustainability of their water and sewer systems through practical, data-driven solutions. The following representative projects illustrate how GHA has successfully guided communities through rate studies, financial modeling, and long-term utility planning that balance system reliability, affordability, and fund sustainability.

While each community's utility system is unique, GHA has consistently helped municipalities balance financial stability with fair and transparent utility rates. Our recent work includes:

Infrastructure Modernization Program, Village of Buffalo Grove

Reference: Briget Schwab, P.E., 847.459.2553, bfschwab@vbg.org

Team Leader, Kyle Johnson, during his tenure as Deputy Public Works Director/Village Engineer, directed a $400 million, multi-year program modernizing the Village's water and sewer systems. The program included water supply, distribution, interconnects, redundancy planning, and capital prioritization. Outcomes included strengthened resiliency, $50 million in secured grant funding, and a rate structure that balanced affordability with long-term sustainability. The program was supported by utility-rate and capital-funding decisions that balanced immediate infrastructure needs with long-term financial stability. Kyle brings firsthand experience explaining those tradeoffs to municipal staff, elected officials, and the public. With immediate needs imminent for Buffalo Grove and no changes to the water/sewer rate for over 30 years, the solution had to be creative, adaptive and consumable by the public.

Water/Sewer Rate Studies, Village of Riverwoods and Village of Northfield

Reference (Riverwoods): Kristine Ford, 847.945.3990, kford@riverwoods.gov

Reference (Northfield): Matt Huebner, 847.748.3582, mhuebner@northfieldil.org

Gewalt Hamilton's staff has experience with straight-line, accounting-based rate studies as well. GHA has completed water and sewer rate studies for the Villages of Riverwoods and Northfield, including accounting-based evaluations of annual revenue needs, inflationary operating costs, and recommended rate adjustments. This approach generally confirms the rate annual increase against the inflating expenses over time. These studies are typically done on smaller systems with less dynamic changes every five to ten years.

Annual Roadway & Utility Improvements, Village of Barrington

Reference: Marie Hansen, P.E., CFM, 847.304.3460, mhansen@barrington-il.gov

Designed and oversaw reconstruction of multiple roadway segments with integrated water main and sanitary sewer replacements. **Challenge:** Maintaining business access during peak shopping season. **Success:** Developed phased construction sequencing and clear public notices, allowing uninterrupted business operations while finishing on schedule and within budget.

PROJECT APPROACH

PROJECT UNDERSTANDING

GENEVA'S NEED: ONE PLAN ACROSS MULTIPLE SYSTEMS

The City of Geneva is not seeking three independent planning documents. The City is seeking one coordinated framework that connects utility financial sustainability, pavement condition, stormwater needs, infrastructure lifecycle, and capital-program delivery into clear annual decisions.

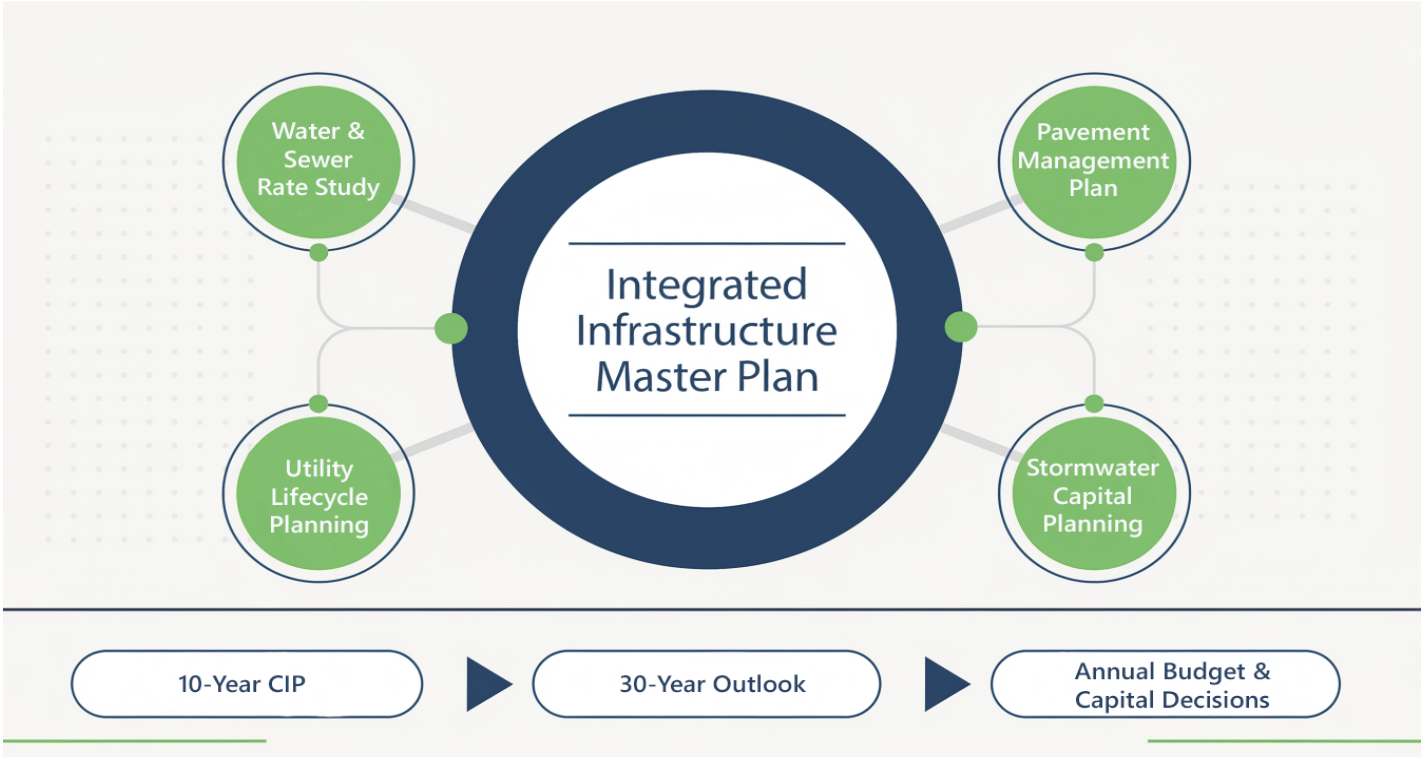
GHA understands that Geneva must make informed decisions about which improvements should occur first, where overlapping project needs occur, how investments should be funded, and how the City can communicate those choices clearly to staff, elected officials, and residents.

The City's next Water and Sewer Rate Study must establish a financially sustainable path beyond the rate adjustments currently scheduled through May 15, 2027. At the same time, Geneva is managing a 15-year Lead Service Line and Water Main Replacement Program, known water and wastewater system needs, an annual street program, and substantial stormwater improvements identified through the City's 2021 Comprehensive Drainage Study.

GHA will help Geneva transform these parallel needs into one practical decision-making framework that answers five essential questions:

1. **What infrastructure investments are needed?**
2. **Which investments should be prioritized and when?**
3. **Where can roadway, utility, and stormwater work be coordinated?**
4. **How should near- and long-term investments be funded?**
5. **How can the City maintain and update this framework each year?**

Our approach will produce a defensible 10-year Capital Improvement Program, a long-range 30-year outlook, recommended water and sewer rates, stormwater-funding strategies, pavement-management recommendations, and GIS-based implementation tools that City staff can use beyond completion of the study.



INTEGRATED WORKPLAN

A FIVE-PHASE APPROACH BUILT FOR IMPLEMENTATION

GHA will organize the work around five coordinated phases. Each phase builds on the prior phase and includes clear review points with City staff before recommendations are advanced.

Phase 1: Confirm Existing Conditions and Decision Criteria

GHA will begin with a kickoff meeting to confirm project goals, available data, communication protocols, decision-makers, and the City's preferred implementation schedule.

Our team will review available records including financial statements, audits, budgets, rate ordinances, billing and customer data, water and sewer capital plans, pavement-program records, GIS datasets, asset inventories, drainage studies, debt schedules, bond covenants, and prior engineering recommendations. Through focused staff workshops, GHA will capture institutional knowledge that may not be reflected in existing records and incorporate it into the baseline project inventory.

This initial work will establish a shared baseline for the project and identify any data gaps requiring validation, refinement, or supplemental field review. Where material data gaps remain, GHA will recommend a targeted validation approach and transparently document the assumptions used for planning purposes, allowing the City to make informed decisions without delaying progress.

Phase 2: Assess Needs, Risks, and Existing Recommendations

GHA will evaluate the viability, status, cost, timing, and priority of existing infrastructure plans and recommendations. This includes water, sanitary sewer, storm sewer, pavement, drainage, and related capital needs.

Projects will be reviewed for:

- Infrastructure condition and anticipated remaining life
- Service, operational, and public-safety risk
- Regulatory or compliance drivers
- Flooding and drainage performance
- Pavement condition and roadway lifecycle timing
- Opportunities for utility, drainage, and roadway coordination
- Easement, permitting, railroad, property-acquisition, and constructability considerations
- Estimated cost, inflation, available funding, and delivery constraints

Phase 3: Coordinate and Sequence Capital Investments

GHA will develop a unified capital-project database that brings water, sanitary sewer, storm sewer, pavement, and related infrastructure improvements into one coordinated planning tool.

Rather than treating each capital program independently, GHA will identify "dig once" opportunities where utility replacement, drainage improvements, roadway reconstruction, resurfacing, and restoration can be sequenced together to reduce redundant construction and minimize disruption to residents.

Rather than treating the IIMP as a static report, GHA will establish a repeatable process and integrated project database that enables City staff to revisit priorities annually as asset conditions, costs, funding opportunities, and community needs evolve.

Phase 4: Evaluate Funding, Rates, and Financial Scenarios

Kyle Johnson, P.E., CFM, MBA, will lead the utility financial-planning and rate-study workstream, drawing on his municipal public works, water-utility operations, capital-program, and long-range infrastructure-

planning experience. Drawing on more than 14 years of municipal public works and utility leadership with the Village of Buffalo Grove, Kyle has managed and supported capital programs ranging from approximately $3 million to $50 million annually. His experience connecting asset needs, funding strategy, grant opportunities, and public communication will guide Geneva's financial-planning, and GHA will evaluate water and sewer revenue requirements, cost-of-service allocations, reserve targets, debt capacity, connection fees, customer-class impacts, and future capital needs. The resulting financial model will test alternative rate and funding scenarios, including cash financing, debt issuance, grants, low-interest loans, General Fund support where appropriate, and stormwater-funding alternatives.

Financial recommendations will be developed in direct coordination with the infrastructure-planning workstreams so proposed rates, reserves, debt, and capital timing reflect the City's actual implementation priorities.



Phase 5: Deliver a Living Planning and Implementation Tool

The final IIMP will provide Geneva with more than a static report. It will include an integrated 10-year CIP, long-range 30-year capital outlook, rate model, project-prioritization framework, GIS/Story Map tools and/or Excel decision-making tools, and implementation roadmap that can be updated as conditions, costs, and priorities change.

WATER, SEWER, AND FINANCIAL PLANNING APPROACH

SUSTAINABLE UTILITY RATES SUPPORTED BY DEFENSIBLE CAPITAL PLANNING

Geneva's Water and Sewer Rate Study must do more than identify a future rate increase. It must establish a financially sustainable strategy that aligns revenues, operating needs, reserve targets, debt obligations, regulatory requirements, and capital investments. GHA will begin by reviewing the City's historical and current financial information, water-production and billing data, customer classes, current rate structure, capital plans, debt schedules, rate ordinances, reserve policies, bond-covenant requirements, and applicable regulatory considerations.

Working with the City, GHA will develop a five-year financial projection that incorporates:

- Historical and projected revenues and expenses
- Water and sewer operating costs
- Existing and future debt obligations
- Fund balance and reserve requirements
- Cash-financed and debt-financed capital needs
- Water-main, lead-service-line, meter-replacement, sewer, treatment, and control-system needs
- Regulatory requirements and emerging compliance considerations
- Grant, loan, and alternative funding opportunities
- For each viable grant or loan opportunity, administering agency, anticipated funding availability, application deadline, matching requirement, and relevant program contact or resource

Using the latest edition of AWWA Manual M1 as applicable guidance, GHA will evaluate cost-of-service allocation, fixed and variable cost recovery, customer-class equity, and alternative rate structures. Functional cost allocation will distinguish water and sanitary sewer requirements and allocate costs among customer classes using AWWA M1-informed methods. Rate alternatives will be screened for administrative feasibility within Geneva's existing meter-reading and billing environment. Kyle's experience leading municipal water-utility operations and capital planning will help ensure that financial recommendations are grounded in the operational, regulatory, and asset-replacement realities of Geneva's system.

GHA will also compare Geneva's current and projected water and sewer operating, capital, and debt costs against appropriate industry benchmarks to provide context for revenue requirements, reserve targets, and future investment decisions.

The study will include recommended rates beginning May 15, 2028, with no more than five years of recommended adjustments. GHA will clearly illustrate customer impacts by class, including residential and non-residential users, so City staff and elected officials can understand the tradeoffs associated with each alternative. Where a recommended change to rates or rate structure would create a material customer impact, GHA will also present a phased implementation alternative for City consideration.

Connection Fees and Peer Comparison

GHA will evaluate the City's water and sewer connection fees, which have not been updated since 2012, and determine whether revisions are appropriate to reflect current system capacity, replacement needs, and equitable cost recovery.

The peer-community comparison will include the six municipalities identified in the RFQ, plus at least 15 additional comparable communities selected based on factors such as population, water source, system size, treatment responsibility, and production capacity. Each peer profile will include applicable unit conversions, population and service area, distribution-system mileage, water source and production capacity, average daily production, tax-supported charges, industrial loading practices where applicable, and wastewater-treatment responsibility.

Water and Sewer Rate Study Deliverables

- Five-year revenue requirement and cash-flow model
- AWWA-informed cost-of-service and rate-design analysis
- Fund balance and reserve recommendations
- Connection-fee evaluation
- Debt and financing strategy
- Rate-impact exhibits by customer class
- Peer-community comparison
- Digital Excel rate model for future City use
- Water and sewer lifecycle replacement schedule identifying recommended improvements, anticipated implementation year, and planning-level cost estimate

PAVEMENT, STORMWATER, AND INTEGRATED CAPITAL PLANNING

COORDINATING WHAT IS BELOW THE STREET WITH WHAT IS ABOVE IT

Geneva's annual street program provides an important foundation, but the City's long-term goal requires a more integrated, data-driven pavement-management and infrastructure-planning framework.

GHA will review current pavement-program records, recent capital projects, available pavement-condition information, maintenance practices, roadway-rehabilitation history, and planned transportation improvements. We will recommend a practical Pavement Management Plan that improves project prioritization, digitizes the decision-making process, and supports annual CIP updates.

The Pavement Management Plan will establish a framework for evaluating pavement condition, lifecycle needs, maintenance timing, reconstruction requirements, drainage performance, utility conflict risk, and coordination opportunities with underground infrastructure.

Stormwater and Drainage Capital Planning

GHA will review the City's 2021 Comprehensive Drainage Study and evaluate the current status, cost, feasibility, phasing, and priority of identified drainage improvements.

GHA's Water Resources Technical Advisor, Krystian Powala, P.E., CFM, will provide senior technical review of the City's existing drainage-study recommendations and support evaluation of project feasibility, hydrologic and hydraulic considerations, flood-risk reduction, permitting constraints, resiliency opportunities, and implementation sequencing. This role will complement Wadee Rafati's day-to-day project management and infrastructure-coordination responsibilities.

The review will include the City's priority Drainage Study Areas and major projects involving basin improvements, storm sewer extensions, trunk sewer reconstruction, culvert replacement, neighborhood-scale drainage programs, railroad crossings, potential property acquisition, and deferred "B-list" improvements.

Working with the Project Manager and Water Resources Technical Advisor, GHA will update project costs from the 2022 base year, identify delivery constraints, and evaluate opportunities to coordinate drainage work with road reconstruction, resurfacing, water-main replacement, sanitary sewer work, and other capital activities.

"Dig Once" Coordination Process

Every major candidate project will be screened against the following coordination questions:

Coordination Question	Purpose
Is roadway work planned within the same corridor?	Avoid premature resurfacing or duplicate restoration.
Are water or sanitary assets nearing end of life?	Coordinate renewal before pavement investment.
Does the area have documented drainage concerns?	Incorporate stormwater improvements when streets are opened.
Are regulatory or grant deadlines driving timing?	Protect funding and compliance opportunities.

Are easements, railroads, or permitting constraints present?	Identify projects needing early advance work.
Can the project be phased without creating avoidable future cost?	Balance affordability with lifecycle value.

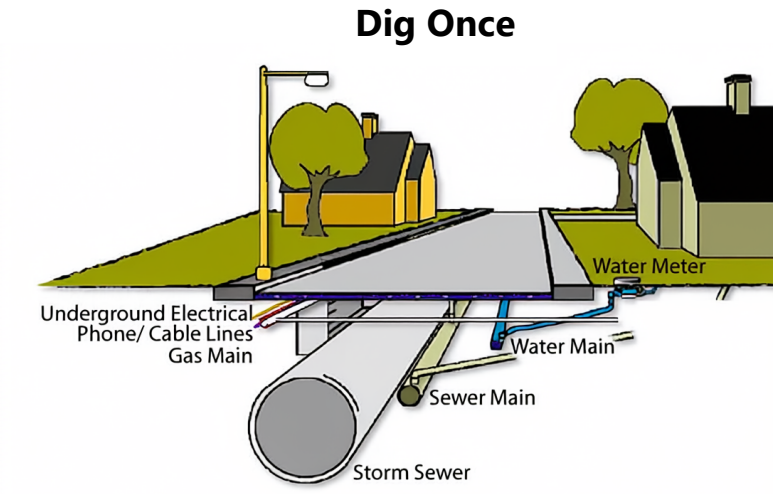
This process will allow Geneva to identify projects that should move forward independently, projects that should be bundled with future roadway work, and projects that require early planning because of property, permitting, funding, or regulatory constraints.

Stormwater Funding Strategy

GHA will evaluate sustainable funding alternatives for drainage capital improvements, including:

- Dedicated Stormwater Fund
- Stormwater utility-fee alternatives
- General Fund seed funding or transfers
- Municipal bonds
- Special Service Areas for localized improvements
- State and federal grant opportunities
- IEPA low-interest financing
- FEMA hazard-mitigation opportunities
- Other applicable loan or grant programs

Recommendations will distinguish between citywide system needs, neighborhood-specific improvements, ongoing maintenance needs, and large capital projects that may require phased delivery. The stormwater CIP will distinguish Phase 1/A-List priorities from Phase 2/B-List projects and identify project descriptions, phasing, updated planning-level costs, prioritization rationale, anticipated easement or land needs, and recommended funding mechanisms. The implementation framework will also incorporate GIS data capture, rainfall-event documentation practices, MS4 considerations, and continued public communication consistent with the City's Comprehensive Drainage Study.



Coordinate infrastructure investment before the street is rebuilt.

GIS, PRIORITIZATION, AND DELIVERABLES

FROM SEPARATE PROJECT LISTS TO ONE MANAGEABLE CAPITAL PROGRAM

GHA will develop an integrated project database that allows Geneva to view infrastructure needs by location, asset type, cost, timing, funding source, priority, and coordination opportunity.

The database will support the City's annual budget process and allow staff to quickly understand how proposed projects relate to one another across water, sanitary sewer, stormwater, and pavement systems.

Projects will be evaluated through a transparent prioritization framework using factors such as:

- Asset condition and remaining useful life
- Operational and public-safety risk
- Flooding, drainage, and service-level impacts
- Regulatory, permit, or compliance requirements
- Pavement and roadway lifecycle timing
- Coordination opportunities
- Estimated cost and funding availability
- Community disruption and constructability
- Grant eligibility or outside funding potential

GIS and Story Map Tools

GHA will provide GIS-based tools and Story Map content that allow the City to visualize the IIMP, PMP, and CIP in an accessible format.

Potential GIS tools may include:

- Integrated capital-project map
- Water, sanitary sewer, stormwater, and pavement project layers
- Priority and implementation-year filters
- Funding-source and grant-opportunity filters
- Project coordination flags
- Drainage-study-area status tracking
- CIP project summary sheets
- Map-based dashboard for staff and elected officials

These tools will help Geneva communicate capital needs more clearly and update information efficiently as projects advance.

Deliverables

At completion, GHA will provide:

- Draft and final Water and Sewer Rate Study
- Draft and final Pavement Management Plan recommendations
- Integrated Infrastructure Master Plan
- 10-year Capital Improvement Program
- 30-year capital outlook
- Water, sanitary sewer, stormwater, and pavement project prioritization framework
- Updated stormwater capital-program recommendations

- Recommended water and sewer rate structure and adjustment schedule
- Connection-fee recommendations
- Funding and debt-strategy recommendations
- Excel-based financial and rate model
- GIS/Story Map planning tools
- Executive summary, tables, graphics, and Council-ready exhibits



*Illustrative integrated capital dashboard. Final GIS and Story Map tools will be configured with City staff.

COMMUNICATION, REGULATORY REVIEW, AND IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE

CLEAR COMMUNICATION AND RELIABLE PROJECT CONTROLS

GHA will maintain regular communication with City staff throughout the study. Kyle Johnson, P.E., CFM, MBA, will serve as Client Manager, Team Leader, and Financial Services Lead. He will provide senior oversight of the integrated infrastructure and utility-financial planning process, lead key financial and rate-study decisions, and participate in milestone and Council discussions. Wadee Rafati, P.E., will serve as day-to-day Project Manager and primary coordination contact. Krystian Powala, P.E., CFM, will serve as Stormwater and Resiliency Technical Advisor.

The project team will conduct:

- Project kickoff meeting
- Regular staff working meetings and progress updates
- Milestone review meetings for preliminary findings
- Draft-report review meeting
- Two evening presentations to the Committee of the Whole and City Council
- Additional meetings as requested by the City

Each major milestone will be structured around clear decisions rather than simply submitting information. GHA will present alternatives, tradeoffs, costs, phasing options, and implementation implications in a format that supports timely direction from City staff and elected officials.

Code Analysis and Jurisdictional Review

Because this project is a planning and prioritization effort, GHA will focus on identifying regulatory, permitting, and jurisdictional considerations that may affect project feasibility, sequencing, cost, and delivery schedule.

Our review will include, as applicable:

- AWWA M1 principles for water-rate, fee, and cost-of-service analysis
- Applicable water and wastewater regulations and IEPA requirements
- Bond-covenant and financial-policy considerations
- Lead-service-line replacement requirements and related compliance drivers
- NPDES MS4 stormwater-permit obligations
- FEMA, IEPA, and other grant or low-interest-loan program requirements
- Illinois Department of Transportation, Kane County, railroad, and utility coordination considerations
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, floodplain, wetland, drainage, and easement considerations where applicable
- City standards, development requirements, and billing-system limitations affecting implementation

GHA will identify projects that may require advance permitting, easement acquisition, railroad coordination, environmental review, or intergovernmental coordination before they can move into design and construction. Detailed permit applications or final design services can be advanced under future implementation assignments, as authorized by the City.

Implementation:

Phase	Months	Key Output
Kickoff and data collection	1	Confirmed work plan and data inventory
Existing-plan and system review	1–3	Baseline conditions and project inventory
Needs assessment and prioritization	3–5	Preliminary utility, stormwater, pavement, and CIP priorities
Rate and funding scenarios	4–6	Financial model and rate alternatives
Draft IIMP / CIP / GIS tools	6–7	Draft recommendations and staff review
Committee of the Whole presentation	7	Direction on preferred alternatives
Final report and Council presentation	8	Final report, models, CIP, and implementation roadmap

*This schedule will be refined with City staff at kickoff to align with data availability, City Council meeting dates, and the May 2028 rate-adoption timeline.