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## **Thatcher Moddie Selected as New City Manager for Ottawa**

Ottawa, KS - The Ottawa City Commission is pleased to announce their unanimous selection of Thatcher Moddie to be the next City Manager. Today's announcement caps a months-long executive recruitment effort that initially produced a field of forty candidates from across the nation.

"We are thrilled to welcome Thatcher Moddie to the City of Ottawa," said Mayor Clayton. "Thatcher will be a great asset to the city for years to come; his professionalism, support for a strong local government, forward-looking community vision, and leadership expertise are well positioned to lead the City of Ottawa into its next chapter."

Moddie has served as City Manager for Herington, Kansas, for almost three years. During his time in Herington, Moddie created a Capital Improvement Plan outlining 10-year financial goals for proposed capital improvements; a comprehensive plan to outline community goals through 2044; and implemented a Rural Champion program to improve business outreach. His dedication to community development can be seen with the securing of millions in grants to expand the Flint Hills Trail to Herington, installation of runway lighting at Herington Regional Airport, and a new sidewalk network to USD 487 for safe routes to schools.

Prior to his time in Herington, Moddie spent five years with the City of Goddard, Kansas, most recently serving as Assistant City Administrator. In this position, he focused on community engagement and daily operations of city government overseeing many infrastructure projects.

Mr. Moddie received his Master of Public Administration from Wichita State University and a Bachelor of Arts in Public Relations from the University of Oklahoma. He currently serves on the Kansas Trails Board and Kansas Association of City/County Management Board.

"I am extremely grateful for the opportunity to serve the community as City Manager. I appreciate the City Commission and staff for trusting in me to help lead this organization. My family and I are excited to call Ottawa home. I look forward to engaging with citizens and working with staff and the governing body to move Ottawa forward," said Moddie.

Reporting directly to the City Commission, the City Manager serves as the Chief Executive Officer for the City and assumes full responsibility for all activities and operations of City Government based on policies and priorities established by the Commission. Moddie is scheduled to begin work in March 2026.

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