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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Jon Quinday of Russell Receives Kansas Municipal Utilities’ Schowalter Award**

Jon Quinday, City Manager of Russell, Kansas, was presented with the 2024 Edgar P. Schowalter Award by Kansas Municipal Utilities (KMU), the statewide association of community-owned and operated electric, gas, water, and wastewater utilities in Kansas. The award, the highest honor presented by KMU, is given to recognize individuals that have made outstanding contributions to the municipal utility industry. Quinday was presented the award at the KMU 2024 Conference in Wichita on April 25, 2024, by Brad Mears, KMU Executive Director.

“Jon Quinday has been a strong voice for the municipal utility business model to provide essential utility services to the community they serve, and he has represented the municipal utility interests of his community to members of Congress and the Kansas Legislature,” said Mears. “Jon also has provided thoughtful guidance on utility-related issues as well as valued input on the operation and planning for Kansas Municipal Utilities.”

With a background as a combat veteran in the US Army, former Russell police chief, he was named City Manager of Russell in 2012. Russell is a full-service municipality with over 90 employees and an annual budget exceeding \$30 million, with electric, water, wastewater, sewer, and sanitation utilities, along with county-wide 911 communications.

Through his career, he has firsthand insight into the complexities of municipal governance and municipal utility management. In addition, his public service extends beyond local government, Quinday has also served as school board president, president of Kansas Municipal Energy Agency, and a board member for Kansas Municipal Utilities, and Kansas Association of Chiefs of Police. He has always been a strong advocate of the importance of public service.

The Schowalter Award is named after the late Ed Schowalter, who was an outstanding leader in the municipal utility industry, both in Kansas and across the United States. Mr. Schowalter served the Kansas City Board of Public Utilities for 28 years and was as a guiding force for KMU for over 27 years.

Kansas Municipal Utilities (KMU), based in McPherson, is the statewide association of community-owned and -operated electric, natural gas, water, wastewater, stormwater, and telecommunications utilities across Kansas. As a non-profit association established by its member utilities in 1928, KMU is dedicated to serving the needs and interests of community-owned utilities and the citizens, businesses and industries that they serve.

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