

## **A Milestone Worth Celebrating: 15 Years in Watertown**

This year marks a meaningful milestone for the team at Bank of Lake Mills—15 years of serving the Watertown community with personal, dependable banking. Since the branch first opened its doors in 2010, the bank has remained committed to delivering local service rooted in trust, relationships, and a genuine investment in the people it serves. Watertown was more than just a strategic expansion; it was a community that aligned with the bank’s values and spirit. Today, that decision is seen as a defining moment in the bank’s history.

When leadership explored new opportunities back in 2010, Watertown stood out. At the time, Jefferson County hadn’t seen a new bank open in more than a decade. With few community banks in the area, it was clear there was both a need and an opportunity. Just as importantly, the character of Watertown—its sense of connection, tradition, and pride—mirrored the bank’s own identity. “Watertown stood out as a community that valued local relationships,” Ty Neupert, President & CEO shared. “There was a clear need for another community bank—and we knew we wanted to be part of that story.”

In the years since, the bank has experienced strong, steady growth. One of the most notable milestones was surpassing \$50 million in deposits—a reflection not only of financial strength but of community trust. But more meaningful than any number has been the way Watertown embraced the bank as a partner, neighbor, and local institution. “The community has embraced us and been incredibly supportive,” Peter Schleicher, CFO noted. “It’s added to the diversity of who we are as a bank and helped expand the way we serve.”

The success of the Watertown branch wouldn’t be possible without its dedicated team. Over the past 15 years, the branch has grown into a tightly knit, reliable, and efficient group of professionals who understand the importance of personal service. Their commitment is reflected in every customer interaction and in the strong relationships they’ve built.

Beyond the walls of the branch, the bank has prioritized community involvement. From supporting local schools and nonprofits to investing time in local events, Watertown has become more than just a place of business—it’s become part of the bank’s culture. Giving back remains one of the bank’s greatest joys and proudest responsibilities.

Looking ahead, the future is bright. “There is tremendous potential for growth and the opportunity to reach more customers,” Ty said. The next 15 years hold exciting possibilities, but the mission remains unchanged: to be a trusted, community-first bank committed to personal service.

Fifteen years in, the bank’s presence in Watertown is more than a chapter—it’s a cornerstone of its story. And as the community continues to grow and evolve, the bank is honored to grow right alongside it.