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Matthew Deam Receives Mayor of the Year Award

Garwin Mayor Matthew Deam has been named the 2026 Mayor of the Year by the Iowa Mayors Association in recognition of his extraordinary service to his community and commitment to local government. Deam received the award Sept. 23 during the Iowa Mayors Association's annual business meeting, held in conjunction with the Iowa League of Cities Annual Conference & Exhibit in Bettendorf.

The Mayor of the Year Award recognizes individuals who have provided extraordinary public service to their communities, the Iowa League of Cities, the Iowa Mayors Association and local government.

Deam was recognized in particular for his leadership in helping bring a new fire and ambulance building to Garwin. Since becoming mayor in 2023, Deam has devoted countless hours to budgeting, planning, coordinating and physically working on the project. With a background as a project manager, Deam has helped guide the project toward completion of a new \$500,000 facility that is expected to serve the community by next year. The project is being funded through donations, local option sales tax revenue and the city's fire and ambulance trust funds, allowing Garwin to complete the project without taking on debt.

In addition to his work as mayor, Deam works full time and is an active member of the local Lions Club. He also donates his mayoral wages back to the city each year.

"The City of Garwin would not be where it is today without Mayor Deam's leadership and dedication," said Michelle Vaverka, City Clerk of Garwin. "He has given countless hours of his own time to make this fire and ambulance building a reality. His commitment to Garwin and his willingness to do whatever is needed for the community truly demonstrate what public service is all about."

The Iowa League of Cities and Iowa Mayors Association congratulate Mayor Deam on receiving the Mayor of the Year Award and recognize his thoughtful and engaged leadership in meeting the unique needs of Garwin.

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The Iowa League of Cities is the oldest, continuously operating municipal league in the country. Founded in 1898, the League is a not-for-profit organization that serves as the unified voice for cities, providing advocacy, training and guidance to the cities of Iowa.