

Village of Lawton

Economic Development Assistance

Why start a business in the Village of Lawton?

Just over 2.3 square miles, the Village of Lawton is characterized by its small-town charm and a warm, friendly community atmosphere. Known throughout Michigan for its local eateries and small-town charm, the village is frequented by guests coming to enjoy a variety of outdoor activities and beautiful natural settings. Lawton's downtown forms the center of activity and connection within the community. It is well-networked, and easily accessible.

Lawton is located on state highway M-40, which runs north and south, the village is only three miles south of I-94 (a major federal highway) and is within thirty minutes of the nearby hub of Kalamazoo, where Western Michigan University, and Kalamazoo College are located. The students graduating from these institutions offer a diverse talent pool.

Lawton is centrally located between Detroit and Chicago, with both cities being less than a two-and-a-half-hour drive, as well as only an hour from Grand Rapids, making it perfectly placed for a day trip away from a big city to see beautiful views, surrounding inland lakes, and enjoy a small-town atmosphere.

The Village offers a blend of food establishments, industry, and services. Our downtown is traditional with amazing architecture, street level retail, and upper-level residential spaces. The opportunities for expansion of retail offerings, additional food and beverage establishments and services are growing.

Check out this guide to local, regional and state assistance and resources available. The Village of Lawton is a great place to live, learn, play and work and we want to help you start your business here.

Village Assistance:

- **DDA Façade Grant:** The Village of Lawton Downtown Development Authority offers a 50/50 matching program which will fund assistance up to \$1,000 to building owners/tenants for the purpose of having specified building improvements. DDA meetings are scheduled at 7:00 PM , the third Wednesday of the month at Village Hall Council Chambers.
 - [Downtown Façade Improvement Program Guidelines](#)
 - [Downtown Façade Improvement Program Application](#)

Regional Assistance:

- **Van Buren County Revolving Loan Funds (RLF)** - Local and regional funds may provide direct loans, loan guarantees, collateral enhancements, purchase loan participations, or make other commercial credit extensions to small businesses in order to fund eligible activities outlined within Section 105(a)(17) of Title 1 of the HCDA.
 - Sarah Snoeyink,
 - Phone: 517-328-9569
 - Email: snoeyinks@michigan.org
- **Market One** – A subsidiary of Kinexus Group, a non-profit serving individuals, businesses, and communities around the state of Michigan, Market One has principal responsibilities for economic and community development throughout Cass and Van Buren Counties. They connect people, investments, and organizations with strategies and services that improve the quality of life and economic conditions in our region, specifically in our two-County Service Area.
 - Katie Multhauf, Economic Development Manager
 - Phone: 269-873-2378
 - Email: vanderhulstk@marketone.org
 - Website: <https://www.marketone.org/>
- **Michigan Works! Berrien, Cass, Van Buren** - Michigan Works fills in the gap between technical skills and employers, providing trainings and workshops to potential employees. They have developed economic development partnerships throughout the region, bolstering their recruitment databases, business services, and training while keeping up with current events through career fairs and job listings.
 - Service Center in Paw Paw Michigan
 - 32849 Red Arrow Hwy Paw Paw, MI
 - 269-927-1799
 - Email: info@miworks.org

State Assistance:

- **Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) Region 8:** MEDC offers many funding incentives geared toward gap financing for community and business development infrastructure geared toward gap financing for community and business development infrastructure and acquisition projects. The Lawton Village Manager can assist businesses in determining whether MEDC may meet their needs, and if so, can connect businesses with the appropriate agency staff.
 - Paula Holtz, Senior Business Development Manager
 - Phone: 517-282-8541
 - Email: stewartb6@michigan.org
 - Website: <https://www.michiganbusiness.org/services/>
 - Location: 300 N Washington Square, Lansing, MI 48913
 - To learn more about other grants and loans opportunities that you may be eligible for, got to <https://www.miplace.org/programs>

- **Michigan Small Business Development Center (SBDC) Southwest Region**– The Michigan SBDC provides business plan development, market research, workshops, financial management, strategic planning, human resources, and organizational development. Their goal is to enhance Michigan’s economic wellbeing by strengthening existing companies, creating new jobs, retaining existing jobs, and assisting companies in defining their path to success.
 - Bonnie Gabriel, Regional Director: Contact Information
 - Office: 269-387-6004
 - Email: sbdc-kzoo@wmich.edu
 - Website: <https://michigansbdc.org/>
- **Pure Michigan Talent Connect (PMTc)** – Connects Michigan’s job seekers and employers, and serves as a central hub linking all public and private stakeholders who support Michigan’s workforce.
 - Customer Contact Center: 1-888-522-0103
 - Website: <https://www.mitalent.org/>

