# UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

### FORM 8-K

# CURRENT REPORT Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

Date of Report (Date of earliest event reported): October 6, 2009

# LAWSON PRODUCTS, INC.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

| Delaware  | 0-10546                                   | 36-2229304                        |  |  |
|---|---|-----------------------------------|--|--|
| (State or other Jurisdiction of   | (Commission File Number)                  | (IRS Employer Identification No.) |  |  |
| Incorporation)  |   |                                   |  |  |
| 1666 E. Touhy Avenue, Des Plai  | nes, Illinois                             | 60018                             |  |  |
| (Address of Principal Executive   | e Offices)                                | (Zip Code)                        |  |  |
|   |   |                                   |  |  |
| Registrant's telephone number, including area code: (847) 827-9666  |   |                                   |  |  |
|   | Not Applicable                            |                                   |  |  |
| (Former   | name or former address if changed since l | ast report.)                      |  |  |
| Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filing is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligation of the registrant under any of the following provisions: |   |                                   |  |  |
| o Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)   |   |                                   |  |  |
| o Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)  |   |                                   |  |  |
| o Pre-commencement communications pur   | suant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchang  | e Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))       |  |  |
| o Pre-commencement communications pur   | suant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchang  | e Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))       |  |  |

#### Item 7.01 Regulation FD Disclosure.

On October 6, 2009, Thomas J. Neri, Chief Executive Officer of Lawson Products, Inc. will present at the William Blair 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Emerging Growth Stock Conference. The visual presentation is attached as an exhibit to this Form 8-K.

#### Item 9.01 Financial Statements and Exhibits.

(d) Exhibits

99.1 October 6, 2009 Investor Presentation

#### **SIGNATURES**

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

LAWSON PRODUCTS, INC.

October 6, 2009 By: /s/ F. Terrence Blanchard

Name: F. Terrence Blanchard Title: Chief Financial Officer Exhibit No. 99.1

Description
October 6, 2009 Investor Presentation



William Blair

3rd Annual Emerging
Growth Stock Conference

October 2009









### **Forwarding-Looking Statements**

- "Safe Harbor" Statement under the Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995:
- This presentation contains certain forward-looking statements within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995 that involve risks and uncertainties. The terms "may," "should," "could," "anticipate," "believe," "continues," "estimate," "expect," "intend," "objective," "plan," "potential," "project" and similar expressions are intended to identify forward-looking statements. These statements are not guarantees of future performance and involve risks, uncertainties and assumptions that are difficult to predict. These statements are based on management's current expectations, intentions or beliefs and are subject to a number of factors, assumptions and uncertainties that could cause or contribute to such differences or that might otherwise impact the business include the risk factors set forth in Item 1A of the December 31, 2008 Form 10-K filed on March 11, 2009. The Company undertakes no obligation to update any such factor or to publicly announce the results of any revisions to any forward-looking statements whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise.

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# Agenda

- Industry Overview Ι.
- Company Overview 11.
- III. Business Strategy
- IV. Financial Summary
- V. Appendix







# Industrial Distribution Market Dynamics

- The industrial distribution industry is characterized by its large scale, extreme fragmentation and many channels of distribution
- The North American industrial distribution market was estimated at \$340 billion for 2007 made up of ~38,400 companies with an average revenue of ~\$8.5 million (1)
- Of these companies in the Industrial Distribution Market, Lawson ranked 21st by sales revenue in 2008<sup>(2)</sup>

|  | Rank | Company                 | Rev (m)  |
|--|------|-------------------------|----------|
|  | 1    | Wolseley                | \$33,100 |
|  | 2    | Wurth                   | \$12,400 |
|  | 2    | HD Supply               | \$9,800  |
|  | 4    | Grainger                | \$6,900  |
|  | 5    | McJunkin Redman         | \$5,200  |
|  | 6    | Airgas                  | \$4,300  |
|  | 7    | Motion Industries       | \$3,500  |
|  | 8    | Wilson Industries       | \$2,700  |
|  | 9    | Fastenal                | \$2,300  |
|  | 10   | Applied Industrial Tech | \$2,100  |
|  | 11   | Winwholesale            | \$2,100  |

| Rank | Company                       | Rev (m) |
|------|-------------------------------|---------|
| 12   | MSC Direct                    | \$1,780 |
| 13   | Edgen Murray                  | \$1,270 |
| 14   | Interline Brands              | \$1,200 |
| 15   | Kaman Industrial Tech         | \$777   |
| 16   | DXPE                          | \$737   |
| 17   | F.W. Webb                     | \$700   |
| 18   | Barnes Distribution           | \$540   |
| 19   | Bossard                       | \$536   |
| 20   | BDI                           | \$523   |
| 21   | Lawson Products               | \$485   |
| 22   | Industrial Distribution Group | \$485   |

(1) Source: Pembroke Consulting, Inc. (2) Source: Industrial Distribution Magazine

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# 🔼 Lawson's place in distribution

Planned Purchases



Customer can shop around. Suppliers needs a low cost delivery model

### Lawson Provides

"Just in Case" Supplies for the "Do it for Me" customer



Customers know they will have a need for products and want to outsource the replenishment, and inventory management Emergency Purchases



Customers need it now.
Suppliers must have a local presence

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### **Lawson Overview**

- Founded in 1952, Lawson is an international distributor of maintenance, repair and operations ("MRO") products and specialty components to the industrial, commercial, institutional and government markets
- Supplies over 180,000 consumable products in a vast number of categories including fasteners, cutting tools, chemicals, abrasives, safety, welding, hydraulic and automotive products
- Serves diverse customer segments including manufacturing, government, education, mining, healthcare, agriculture, transportation and automotive repair
- High service, high margin private label offering that is greatly valued by customers
  - Value-added services such as vendor managed inventory and extensive product application expertise are supplemented by long standing customer relationships through our established sales channel with strong private label brand loyalty
- 32 facilities with 8 distribution centers and approximately ~1,500 selling agents
- Over 140,000 customers with top 20 MRO customers constituting less than 5% of total 2008 MRO revenue

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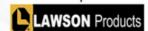


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### Lawson Overview - Business Segments

Lawson **Products** 









- 2008 sales \$353.2 million
   2008 sales \$50.4 million
- · 976 Employees
- · Lawson's largest division · Direct, Web, Catalog
- · Markets a broad range of MRO products including fasteners, cutting tools, . Offers cutting tools chemicals and abrasives, abrasives, welding, hydraulics and automotive machine tooling, products
- Selling Agents ~1500

- 110 Employees
- and Wholesale plus six retail locations
- precision tools, shop supplies, hand & power tools, safety
- 2008 sales \$62.1 million
- 113 Employees
- . Sells directly to OEM's
- · Specializes in fasteners and class "C" components . Manufactures specialized
- · Provides customers with just-in-time inventories of commodity and customized component parts
- 2008 sales \$19.5 million
- · 132 Employees
- · Sells directly to Fortune 500 client base
- screw machine parts for the OEM and MRO marketplaces

Employee and agent count at 12/31/08





# Management is Executing on a Plan to Strengthen the Platform and Improve Financial Performance

#### **Historical Challenges**

- Multiple independent business units w/ separate supply chains, selling organizations & management teams
- · Disparate operating & selling practices
- Business model costs (2007)
  - · 51.8% SG&A at enterprise level
  - . 60.1% SG&A for Lawson Products \*
  - · 38.0% Lawson Products cost of sales
- · Few inter-business synergies
- · High sales force turnover
- · Low sales force productivity
- · Growth difficult to achieve
- · Lack of bench in senior & mid level management team

#### **Business strategy**

Close the gap - Build scalability - Unlock value and future opportunities

\*2007 adjusted SG&A before incentive comp.



# Implemented Cost Savings Initiatives

### Fixed Cost Reductions - 2008 and 2009

\$'s in millions

|                                | 2008/2009 |          |  |
|--------------------------------|-----------|----------|--|
|                                | Con       | Combined |  |
| Headcount                      | \$        | 9.6      |  |
| Sales and Marketing            |           | 6.4      |  |
| T&E                            |           | 4.6      |  |
| DC Closings (Dallas/Charlotte) |           | 2.6      |  |
| Other                          |           | 3.1      |  |
| Total Fixed Cost Reductions    | \$        | 26.3     |  |

- Total FTE's have decreased by approximately 250 (or 18%) from December 2007 to August 2009
- Approximately \$3.0 million of additional savings will be realized in 2010 from the annualization of the reduction in force and distribution center closings bringing the total fixed cost reductions to over \$29.0 million.

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## **Implemented Working Capital Management**

- Lawson made key hires in the areas of finance and supply chain management to focus on working capital efficiency
- · Teams were formed to drive improvement in product and distribution costs and inventory management
  - Correlating inventory levels to sales projections
  - · Reducing inventory of slow-moving items

#### Inventory Management

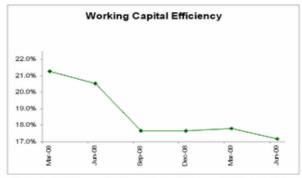
- Targeted a \$22.6 million inventory reduction from April 2008 to December 2009
- · Currently ahead of plan \$1.7 million
- Achieved \$20.8 million reduction by August 2009



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#### Working Capital

- In addition to a \$20.8 million inventory reduction, significant progress has been made with Accounts Receivable and Accounts Payable. Since March 2008:
- · Average AR days have decreased by 1.7 days
- · Average AP days have increased by 22.9 days



Working Capital Efficiency = (Total Current Assets - Total Current Liabilities) / Net Sales

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## Other accomplishments, results and initiatives

#### Accomplishments

- ✓ Integrate MRO businesses completed 2008
- ✓ Exploit inter-business synergies completed 2008
- ✓ Unify selling organization completed 2008
- ✓ Single high quality management organization over 50 new hires at manager level and above
- ✓ Outsource computer operations complete 2009

#### In Process

- Transform sales model In process
- Optimize distribution network In process
- ERP selection implementation In process
- Implement "Lean / Six Sigma" initiative In process
- Rationalize businesses in process
- Ø Segment-focused sales execution − 2010

#### **Planned Outcome**

Deliver sales, operational & financial leverage in the business

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# **MRO Group Value Proposition**

### "Smarter Maintenance"

#### **Inventory Management**

- · Onsite management of MRO inventory to keep customers operations running
- Regular inventory analysis and replenishment to prevent unnecessary purchases or unplanned downtime
- Customized storage systems for improved inventory organization and more efficient workflow

#### **Technical Expertise**

- Local agents to analyze your application and recommend solutions that meet your performance requirements
- Industry-leading product technical support delivered from a team of in-house engineers
- · Application engineering specialists to provide on-site problem solving and safety training

#### Quality engineered products

- Comprehensive line of more than 80,000 products, for critical applications to everyday maintenance
- · High value private label products
- Lot control traceability and certification
- · ISO 9000 registered; guaranteed product satisfaction

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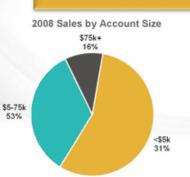


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# **Sales Transformation**

#### % of Sales Based on Ranges of Annual Customer Purchases







#### Phase 1:

- a. Transition Front Line Management role from Player Manager to Manager Coach
- b. Implement new compensation programs to drive revenues

#### Phase 2:

- a. Develop "Key Account" selling capability
- Implement segment specific strategies
- c. Develop greater tactical finesse around pricing management

#### Phase 3:

a. Develop alternative channel solutions for low volume accounts

#### Projected Benefits: Sales force productivity gains ~28%:



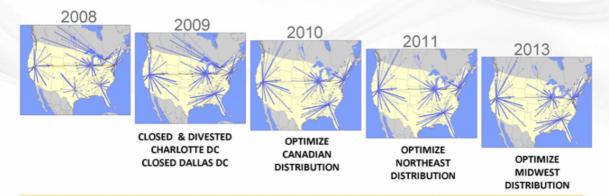
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# Network Optimization

Scenarios have been developed creating an incremental progression to move from the current distribution network to a more optimal design balancing cost and service.



- Deliverables:
- ~\$10 million inventory reduction opportunity
- ~ \$5 million operating cost reduction
- Maintain or improve customer service levels





## **Enterprise Resource Planning System**

- Current IT costs \$16 million annually for Lawson Products compared to \$8 10 million as an industry average
- Legacy systems
  - Drive non IT operational costs up
  - · Limit agility to quickly respond to changing market conditions
- Vendor selection process
  - Two tier one and three tier two vendors being considered

#### **Estimated Timeline Estimated Benefits** \$10M - \$15M Q 3 2009 Productivity Improvement Complete High Level Business Case 20% Q 4 2009 Sales Increase Complete ERP selection 20% Margin Improvement Q1 2010 Planning / Analysis / Design One time Gain & Other Q 1 2011 Start Go-Live 10% Page 14



## Why Buy Lawson now....

- Resilient business model well positioned to navigate through the current economic conditions and produce operational leverage from any future market uptick
- Experienced management team with the capability in managing our business through significant adversity.
- Diversified customer base and a broad range of consumable products result in a recurring revenue model
- Operational initiatives under way with expected significant future EPS impact
- Solid cash and liquidity position.
- Outstanding gross margins
- Low level of debt
- · Track record of generating strong free cash flows





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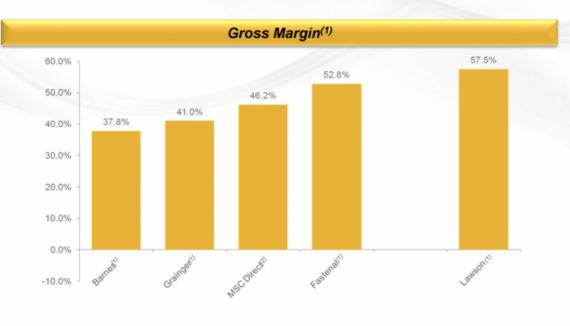






# Lawson Financial Summary

Lawson possesses strong gross margins compared to its competitors...



(1) Period ending December 31, 2008.

(2) Period ended August 31, 2008.





# Lawson Financial Summary

...but notably high SG&A costs leave substantial opportunity for cost improvements which could translate into higher EBITDA margins



(1) Period ending December 31, 2008.

(2) Period ended August 31, 2008.

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# Condensed Consolidated Statements of Operations (Unaudited)

| (Amounts in thousands, except per share data) | The        | Three Months Ended |           |  |  |
|---|------------|--------------------|-----------|--|--|
|   | Dec. 31,   | March 31,          | June 30,  |  |  |
|   | 2008       | 2009               | 2009      |  |  |
| Net sales                                     | \$ 106,825 | \$ 99,381          | \$ 95,033 |  |  |
| Cost of goods sold                            | 46,488     | 45,214             | 39,164    |  |  |
| Gross profit                                  | 60,337     | 54,167             | 55,869    |  |  |
| Gross profit %                                | 56.5%      | 54.5%              | 58.8%     |  |  |
| Selling, general and administrative           | 61,131     | 56,632             | 52,890    |  |  |
| Severance and other                           | 1,654      | 6,452              | (489)     |  |  |
| Settlement and related costs                  | 104        | 49                 | 42        |  |  |
| Impairment of goodwill                        | 2,251      |                    |           |  |  |
| Operating income (loss)                       | (4,803)    | (8,966)            | 3,426     |  |  |
| Other income                                  | (8)        | 725                | 51        |  |  |
| Interest expense                              | (99)       | (74)               | (268)     |  |  |
| Income (loss) from continuing operations      |            |                    |           |  |  |
| before income taxes                           | (4,910)    | (8,315)            | 3,209     |  |  |
| Income tax expense (benefit)                  | 507        | (2,396)            | 1,313     |  |  |
| Income (loss) from continuing operations      | (5,417)    | (5,919)            | 1,896     |  |  |
| Loss from discontinued operations, net        |            |                    |           |  |  |
| of income taxes                               | (8)        | (29)               | (49)      |  |  |
| Net income (loss)                             | \$ (5,425) | \$ (5,948)         | \$ 1,847  |  |  |
| Basic and diluted weighted average            |            |                    |           |  |  |
| shares outstanding                            | 8,522      | 8,522              | 8,522     |  |  |
| Basic and diluted income (loss) per share     |            |                    |           |  |  |
| of common stock                               | \$ (0.64)  | \$ (0.70)          | \$ 0.22   |  |  |





# Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheets

| (Amounts in thousands)                                    |    | Dec. 31,<br>2008 |    | June 30,<br>2009 |  |
|---|----|------------------|----|------------------|--|
| ASSETS  |    |                  | (U | naudited)        |  |
| Cash and cash equivalents                                 | \$ | 4,300            | \$ | 10,968           |  |
| Accounts receivable, less allowance for doubtful accounts |    | 48,634           |    | 41,145           |  |
| Inventories   |    | 86,435           |    | 79,792           |  |
| Miscellaneous receivables and prepaid expenses            |    | 11,812           |    | 12,245           |  |
| Deferred income taxes                                     |    | 6,127            |    | 5,972            |  |
| Property held for sale                                    |    |                  |    | 352              |  |
| Discontinued assets                                       | 1  | 296              |    | 385              |  |
| Total Current Assets                                      | -  | 157,604          |    | 150,859          |  |
| Property, plant and equipment, less accumulated           |    |                  |    |                  |  |
| depreciation and amortization                             |    | 47,783           |    | 43,806           |  |
| Cash value of life insurance                              |    | 17,970           |    | 15,938           |  |
| Deferred income taxes                                     |    | 18,159           |    | 15,625           |  |
| Goodwill  |    | 25,748           |    | 27,331           |  |
| Other assets  |    | 3,732            |    | 3,784            |  |
| Total Assets  | \$ | 270,996          | \$ | 257,343          |  |
| LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY                      |    |                  |    |                  |  |
| Accounts payable  | S  | 16,334           | s  | 20,161           |  |
| Settlement payable - current                              |    | 10,000           |    | 10,000           |  |
| Accrued expenses and other liabilities                    |    | 41,205           |    | 33,533           |  |
| Discontinued current liabilities                          |    | 53               |    |                  |  |
| Total Current Liabilities                                 |    | 67,592           |    | 63,694           |  |
| Revolving line of credit                                  |    | 7,700            |    |                  |  |
| Security bonus plan                                       |    | 26,218           |    | 25,654           |  |
| Deferred compensation                                     |    | 11,301           |    | 13,081           |  |
| Settlement payable - noncurrent                           |    | 10,000           |    | 10,000           |  |
| Other   |    | 9,441            |    | 9,593            |  |
|   |    | 64,660           |    | 58,328           |  |
| Stockholders' equity                                      |    | 138,744          |    | 135,321          |  |
| Total liabilities and stockholders' equity                | \$ | 270,996          | \$ | 257,343          |  |





# Condensed Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows (Unaudited)

| (Amounts in thousands)   |    | Six Months<br>Ended June 30,<br>2009 |  |  |
|--|----|--------------------------------------|--|--|
| Operating activities:  |    |                                      |  |  |
| Net loss   | \$ | (4,101)                              |  |  |
| Adjustments to reconcile net loss to net cash provided<br>by operating activities: |    |                                      |  |  |
| Depreciation and amortization  |    | 3,679                                |  |  |
| Changes in operating assets and liabilities  |    | 15,072                               |  |  |
| Other  |    | 1,725                                |  |  |
| Net cash provided by operating activities  |    | 16.375                               |  |  |
| ner cash provided by operating activities  |    | 10,010                               |  |  |
| Investing activities:  |    |                                      |  |  |
| Additions to property, plant and equipment   |    | (1,996)                              |  |  |
| Sale of property, plant and equipment  |    | 2,179                                |  |  |
| Net cash provided by investing activities  |    | 183                                  |  |  |
| the country and any mirror any accountry   |    |                                      |  |  |
| Financing activities:  |    |                                      |  |  |
| Payments to revolving line of credit   |    | (7,700)                              |  |  |
| Dividends paid   |    | (1,960)                              |  |  |
| Other  |    | (238)                                |  |  |
| Net cash used for financing activities   |    | (9,898)                              |  |  |
| Increase in cash and cash equivalents  |    | 6,660                                |  |  |
| Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of period                                   |    | 4,581                                |  |  |
| Cash and cash equivalents at end of period   |    | 11,241                               |  |  |
| Cash held by discontinued operations   |    | (273)                                |  |  |
| Cash and cash equivalents held by<br>continuing operations at end of period        | s  | 10.968                               |  |  |
|  | -  | ,                                    |  |  |

