

UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, DC 20549

FORM S-8
Registration Statement
Under the Securities Act of 1933

Acme United Corporation
(Exact name of Registrant as specified in its charter)

Connecticut
(State or other jurisdiction of
incorporation or organization)

06-0236700
(I.R.S. Employer
Identification Number)

1 Waterview Drive
Shelton, Connecticut 06484
(Address of principal executive offices, including zip code)

Acme United Corporation 2022 Employee Stock Option Plan
(Full Title of the Plan)

Paul Driscoll
Vice President, Chief Financial Officer,
Secretary and Treasurer
1 Waterview Drive
Shelton, Connecticut 06484
(Name and address of agent for service)
(203) 254-6060

(Telephone number, including area code, of agent for service)

copy to:
Merritt A. Cole, Esq.
Earp Cohn P.C.
121 South Broad Street, Suite 1720
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19107
Phone (215) 963-9520
Fax (215) 963-9620

Indicate by check mark whether the Registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, a non-accelerated filer or a smaller reporting company. See definitions of “large accelerated filer”, “accelerated filer” and “smaller reporting company” in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act.

Large accelerated filer ☐ Accelerated filer ☒ Non-accelerated filer ☐ Smaller reporting company ☒

Emerging growth company ☐

If an emerging growth company, indicate by check mark if the registrant has elected not to use the extended transition period for complying with any new or revised financial accounting standards provided pursuant to Section 7(a)(2)(B) of the Securities Act ☐

Explanatory Note.

The Company is filing this Registration Statement on Form S-8 for the purpose of registering an additional 200,000 shares of Common Stock, par value \$2.50 per share, of the Company (the “Common Stock”), which may be issued pursuant to the Acme United Corporation 2022 Employee Stock Option Plan, as amended (the “Employee Plan”).

Pursuant to Rule 416 under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the “Securities Act”), this Registration Statement also covers an indeterminate amount of additional shares of Common Stock, which may become issuable pursuant to the respective anti-dilution or other adjustment provisions of the Employee Plan.

In accordance with Instruction E of the General Instruction to Form S-8, the contents of the Registration Statement on Form S-8 (Reg. No. 333-282222) filed on September 19, 2024 by the Company with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (the “Commission”) relating to the Employee Plan are incorporated by reference herein to the extent not otherwise modified or superseded by this Registration Statement.

Part I

INFORMATION REQUIRED IN THE SECTION 10(a) PROSPECTUS

The documents containing the information specified in Part I of Form S-8 will be sent or given to participants as specified by Rule 428(b)(1) promulgated under the Securities Act. Such documents need not be filed with the Commission either as part of this Registration Statement or as prospectuses or prospectus supplements pursuant to Rule 424. These documents and the documents incorporated herein by reference pursuant to Item 3 of Part II of this Registration Statement, taken together, constitute a prospectus that meets the requirements of Section 10(a) of the Securities Act (the "Prospectus").

Part II

INFORMATION REQUIRED IN THE REGISTRATION STATEMENT

Item 3. Incorporation of Documents by Reference.

The following documents previously filed with the Commission are incorporated by reference and made a part of this prospectus:

- (a) [our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2025, filed on March 11, 2026 \(the "Annual Report"\)](#);
- (b) (i) [our Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q for the quarters ended March 31, 2026 and June 30, 2026, filed on May 6, 2026, and August 6, 2026](#), respectively.
- (ii) our Current Reports on Form 8-K filed on [January 22](#), [February 26](#), [April 23](#), [April 28](#), [July 21](#) and [July 23, 2026](#), (other than the portions of those documents not deemed to be filed); and
- (c) the description of our Common Stock contained in Exhibit 4(vi) to the Annual Report, including any amendment to that Report that we may file in the future, for the purpose of updating the description of our Common Stock.

All documents that we file pursuant to Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 and 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the "Exchange Act") subsequent to the effective date of this Registration Statement, prior to the filing of a post-effective amendment which indicates that all securities offered by this Prospectus have been sold or which deregisters all securities then remaining unsold, shall be deemed to be incorporated by reference in this Prospectus and to be a part of this Prospectus from the date of filing of such documents. Any statement contained herein or in any document incorporated or deemed to be incorporated by reference shall be deemed to be modified or superseded for purposes of this Registration Statement to the extent that a statement contained in any other subsequently filed document which also is or is deemed to be incorporated by reference modifies or supersedes such statement. Any such statement so modified or superseded shall not be deemed to constitute a part of this Registration Statement, except as so modified or superseded.

Item 4. Description of Securities.

Not applicable, because the Common Stock is registered under Section 12 of the Exchange Act.

Item 5. Interest of Named Experts and Counsel.

None.

Item 6. Indemnification of Directors and Officers.

Connecticut General Statutes ("CGS") Sections 33-770 through 33-779 provide for mandatory, permissive and court-ordered indemnification of directors who are parties to a proceeding. For purposes of these indemnification statutes, a

"proceeding" is defined as any threatened, pending or completed action, suit or proceeding, whether civil, criminal, administrative, arbitrative or investigative and whether formal or informal.

The Company's Restated Certificate of Incorporation provides that the Company shall indemnify an individual who is a party to a proceeding because he is a director or officer of the Company against liability in the proceeding if:

(1)(A) he conducted himself in good faith; (B) he reasonably believed (i) in the case of conduct in his official capacity, that his conduct was in the best interests of the Company; and (ii) in all other cases, that his conduct was at least not opposed to the best interests of the Company; and (C) in the case of any criminal proceeding, he had no reasonable cause to believe his conduct was unlawful; or

(2) such liability arises from any action taken, or any failure to take any action, as a director or officer, except liability that (A) involved a knowing and culpable violation of law by the director or officer; (B) enabled the director, officer or an associate (as defined in the CGS) to receive an improper personal gain; (C) showed a lack of good faith and a conscious disregard for the duty of the director or officer to the Company under circumstances in which the director or officer was aware that his conduct or omission created an unjustifiable risk of serious injury to the Company; (D) constituted a sustained and unexcused pattern of inattention that amounted to an abdication of the director's or officer's duty to the Company; or (E) created liability under the CGS for the illegal payment of dividends.

The Registrant has obtained directors' and officers' reimbursement and liability insurance against certain liabilities.

Item 7. Exemption from Registration Claimed.

Not applicable.

Item 8. Exhibits.

The following exhibits are filed as part of this Registration Statement:

<u>Exhibit No.</u>	<u>Identification of Exhibit</u>
5.1	Opinion of Brody Wilkinson PC
10.1	2022 Employee Stock Option Plan, as amended (1)
10.2	Form of Non-Qualified Stock Option Agreement for 2022 Employee Stock Option Plan, as amended (2)
23.1	Consent of CBIZ CPAs P.C., independent registered public accounting firm
23.2	Consent of Marcum LLP
23.3	Consent of Brody Wilkinson PC (included in Exhibit 5.1)
24.1	Power of attorney (included on signature page of this Registration Statement)
107	Calculation of filing fee table

(1) Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.12 to the Company's Form S-8, filed with the Commission on October 11, 2022.

(2) Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.13 to the Company's Form S-8, filed with the Commission on October 11, 2022.

Item 9. Undertakings

The undersigned Registrant hereby undertakes:

(1) To file, during any period in which offers or sales are being made, a post-effective amendment to this Registration Statement:

(a) to include any Prospectus required by Section 10(a)(3) of the Securities Act;

(b) to reflect in the Prospectus any facts or events arising after the effective date of this Registration Statement (or the most recent post-effective amendment thereof) which, individually or in the aggregate, represent a fundamental change

in the information set forth in this Registration Statement. Notwithstanding the foregoing, any increase or decrease in volume of securities offered (if the total dollar value of securities offered would not exceed that which was registered) and any deviation from the low or high end of the estimated maximum offering range may be reflected in the form of a prospectus filed with the Commission pursuant to Rule 424(b) if, in the aggregate, the changes in volume and price represent no more than a 20% change in the maximum aggregate offering price set forth in the "Calculation of Registration Fee" table in the effective registration statement;

(c) To include any material information with respect to the plan of distribution not previously disclosed in this Registration Statement or any material change to such information in this Registration Statement;

provided, however, that paragraphs (1)(a) and (1)(b) do not apply if the information required to be included in a post-effective amendment by those paragraphs is contained in reports filed with or furnished to the Commission by the Registrant pursuant to Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the Exchange Act that are incorporated by reference in this Registration Statement.

(2) That, for the purpose of determining any liability under the Securities Act, each such post-effective amendment shall be deemed to be a new Registration Statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof.

(3) To remove from registration by means of a post-effective amendment any of the securities being registered which remain unsold at the termination of the offering.

(4) That, for the purposes of determining any liability under the Securities Act, each filing of the Registrant's annual report pursuant to Section 13(a) or Section 15(d) of the Exchange Act (and, where applicable, each filing of an employee benefit plan's annual report pursuant to Section 15(d) of the Exchange Act) that is incorporated by reference in this Registration Statement shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof.

(5) Insofar as indemnification for liabilities arising under the Securities Act may be permitted to directors, officers and controlling persons of the Registrant pursuant to the foregoing provisions, or otherwise, the Registrant has been advised that in the opinion of the Commission such indemnification is against public policy as expressed in the Securities Act and is, therefore, unenforceable. In the event that a claim for indemnification against such liabilities (other than the payment by the Registrant of expenses incurred or paid by a director, officer or controlling person of the Registrant in the successful defense of any action, suit or proceeding) is asserted by such director, officer or controlling person in connection with the securities being registered, the Registrant will, unless in the opinion of its counsel the matter has been settled by controlling precedent, submit to a court of appropriate jurisdiction the question whether such indemnification by it is against public policy as expressed in the Securities Act and will be governed by the final adjudication of such issue.

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, the Registrant certifies that it has reasonable grounds to believe that it meets all of the requirements for filing on Form S-8 and has duly caused this Registration Statement to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized, in the Town of Shelton, State of Connecticut, on the 2nd day of October, 2026.

ACME UNITED CORPORATION

By: /s/ Walter C. Johnsen
Walter C. Johnsen, Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer

KNOW ALL PERSONS BY THESE PRESENTS, that each person whose signature appears below constitutes and appoints Walter C. Johnsen and Paul Driscoll, or either of them, as true and lawful attorneys-in-fact and agents with full power of substitution and re-substitution, for him and in his name, place and stead, in any and all capacities to sign the Registration Statement filed herewith and any or all amendments to said Registration Statement, and to file the same, with all exhibits thereto, and other documents in connection therewith, with the Securities and Exchange Commission, granting unto said attorney-in-fact and agents the full power and authority to do and perform each and every act and thing requisite and necessary to be done in and about the foregoing, as to all intents and purposes as he or she might or could do in person, hereby ratifying and confirming all that said attorney-in-fact and agents or any of them, or his substitute, may lawfully do or cause to be done by virtue hereof.

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, this Registration Statement has been signed by the following persons in the capacities indicated below on the 2nd day of October, 2026:

Signature	Title
<u>/s/ Walter C. Johnsen</u> Walter C. Johnsen	Chairman of the Board, Chief Executive Officer and Director
<u>/s/ Brian S. Olschan</u> Brian S. Olschan	President, Chief Operating Officer and Director
<u>/s/ Paul Driscoll</u> Paul Driscoll	Vice President, Chief Financial Officer, Secretary and Treasurer
<u>/s/ Brian K. Barker</u> Brian K. Barker	Director
<u>/s/ Rex L. Davidson</u> Rex L. Davidson	Director
<u>/s/ Richmond Y. Holden, Jr.</u> Richmond Y. Holden, Jr.	Director
<u>/s/ Susan H. Murphy</u> Susan H. Murphy	Director
<u>/s/ Paul J. Conway</u> Paul J. Conway	Director

October 2, 2026

Board of Directors
Acme United Corporation
1 Waterview Drive
Shelton, CT 06484

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen:

We have acted as counsel for Acme United Corporation, a Connecticut corporation (the “Company”), and are delivering this opinion in connection with the filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the “Commission”) on or about the date hereof of a Form S-8 Registration Statement (the “Registration Statement”) relating to the registration of a total of 200,000 shares (the “Shares”) of common stock of the Company, par value \$2.50 per share, issuable upon exercise of options granted or which may be granted pursuant to the Acme United Corporation 2022 Employee Stock Option Plan, as amended (the “Employee Plan”; the “Plan”).

In rendering the opinion expressed herein, we have examined and relied upon the following: (a) the Registration Statement in the form to be filed with the Commission on the date hereof, (b) a copy of the Plan, (c) the Restated Certificate of Incorporation and the Bylaws of the Company in effect as of the date hereof, (d) the respective approvals of the Board of Directors and of the shareholders of the Company approving the Plan and the filing of the Registration Statement with respect to the Shares, (e) a form of option agreement under the Plan and (f) such other documents as we have deemed necessary or appropriate as a basis for the opinion expressed herein.

In rendering the opinion expressed herein, we have, without any independent inquiry or investigation, assumed that (i) any and all original documents submitted to us for our review are authentic and complete in all respects, (ii) all documents submitted to us as copies conform to authentic, complete originals, (iii) all signatures on all documents are the true and genuine signatures of the person on whose behalf they are purportedly made, (iv) all natural persons who executed documents had the legal capacity so to do, (v) all statements in certificates of public officials and officers of the Company that we reviewed were and are accurate and (vi) all representations made by the Company as to matters of fact in the documents that we reviewed were and are accurate.

Based upon the foregoing, we are of the opinion that the Shares issuable pursuant to the Plan have been duly authorized and, when and to the extent issued and delivered pursuant to the Plan and the relevant option agreements, including receipt by the Company of the consideration to be paid therefor, will be validly issued, fully paid and non-assessable.

This opinion letter is provided to you for your benefit solely with regard to the Registration Statement, may be relied upon by you only in connection with the Registration Statement, and may not be relied upon by any other person or for any other purpose without our prior written consent.

In connection herewith, we express no opinion on the laws of any jurisdiction other than the Connecticut Business Corporation Act and the laws of the State of Connecticut. This opinion is limited to the specific issues addressed herein, and no opinion may be inferred or implied beyond that expressly stated herein. We assume no obligation to revise or supplement this opinion after the date hereof should the Connecticut Business Corporation Act be changed by legislative action, judicial decision or otherwise.

We hereby consent to the filing of this opinion as an exhibit to the Registration Statement and to the use of our name in connection with the Registration Statement. In giving this consent, we do not hereby admit that we are in the category of persons whose consent is required under Section 7 of the Securities Act of 1933 or the rules and regulations of the Commission thereunder.

Very truly yours,
/s/ Brody Wilkinson PC

CONSENT OF CBIZ CPAs, INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM

We consent to the incorporation by reference in this Registration Statement on Form S-8 of our reports dated March 11, 2026 with respect to the financial statements of Acme United Corporation and the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting of Acme United Corporation included in the Annual Report on Form 10-K of Acme United Corporation for the year ended December 31, 2025.

/s/ CBIZ CPAs P.C.

Hartford, CT
October 2, 2026

CONSENT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM

We consent to the incorporation by reference in this Registration Statement on Form S-8 of our reports dated March 6, 2025 with respect to the financial statements of Acme United Corporation and the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting of Acme United Corporation included in the Annual Report on Form 10-K of Acme United Corporation for the year ended December 31, 2024.

/s/ MARCUM LLP

Hartford, CT
October 2, 2026

CONSENT OF BRODY WILKINSON PC

(Included in Exhibit 5.1)

ACME UNITED CORP

[illegible]

[illegible]