

# 2026-2027 Water Rate Increase

*To take Effect on the rates in October 2026*

*Reflected on the bill Due November 15, 2026*

## ❖ Why are we increasing the rates by 3%

- During the City of Wolfe City's 2025–2026 water rate study, the Texas Rural Water Association (TRWA) recommended increasing the base water rate from \$60 to \$90 per month to help cover the cost of operating and maintaining the water system.
- The city **chose not to make the full increase** and instead adopted a smaller increase to balance the needs of the water system with the impact on our residents.
- This year, we are continuing to take the same approach. As the cost of materials, equipment, utilities, and other services continues to rise, the city must review water rates to ensure we can continue providing reliable water service and properly maintain our system.
- Our goal is to keep rates reasonable while making sure the city has the resources needed to provide and maintain this essential service.
- Without the Adjustment:
  - We risk **underfunding critical maintenance**, leading to more frequent service disruption.
  - We delay upgrades in service lines and equipment that can result in **higher emergency repair costs** down the road

## ❖ Why do we have to pay more for water we can't drink?

- Our water may not always taste the way you'd prefer but it is **safe to drink and meets all state and federal health standards**.

## ❖ What will my bill look like moving forward?

- Your utility bill includes multiple services: water, sewer and garbage. The approved increase only affects **the base service fee for water and the usage rates for water and sewer services**. Residential Trash services remain unchanged.
- **City Hall is always available to answer questions (903)496-2251**

## ❖ Will the increase help our streets?

- The money collected from water and sewer bills is placed into a **dedicated utility fund**. By law and accounting standards, that money **can only be used** to operate, maintain, and improve the **water and wastewater systems**. *What This Means:*
  - **Water and sewer revenue CANNOT** be used to repair or repave streets.
- These funds are strictly reserved for:
  - Treating and delivering safe drinking water
  - Maintaining water lines, sewer pipes, and equipment
  - Replacing aging infrastructure
  - Meeting state and federal regulations (like TCEQ requirements)

❖ **Why can't the water department tell us if our pipes contain lead?**

- We understand that some questions have come up regarding the **recent notices** sent to water customers. These notices are part of a **federally mandated program** — not an indication that your water is unsafe.
- **What Is This Notice About?**

The notices are required under the **TCEQ Lead and Copper Rule Revision**, a **10+ year federal program** designed to help cities identify the materials used in every water service line (the pipe that connects your home or business to the public water main).
- **What the Notice *Does Not* Mean**
  - It does not mean that your water is unsafe
  - It does **not mean the city doesn't know what your pipes are made of**. Rather, it simply means that **we have not yet completed the specific verification and documentation** required by the program to officially confirm your service line's material and remove it from the "unknown" category.
  - The city is required to identify and report the pipe material for **every service line in the system** by **October 2027**. This is a major effort involving physical inspections, records review, and fieldwork.
- **Where We Stand Now**
  - The Water Department and Public Work Department are working diligently to identify all service lines by October 2027.