

A comprehensive utility rate study was recently completed to determine compliance with state laws and ensure adequate planning for future capital needs.

Based on the study, water and wastewater rates will go to an annual increase of generally two percent for operations and maintenance, capital improvements and debt service. Utility rate fees are applied to Mankato's utility enterprise fund, which pays for operations and maintenance, capital improvements and debt service on utilities.

Other than a minimal basic monthly service fee, water and wastewater fees are billed according to actual household use so customers have an opportunity to influence the amount of their monthly utility bill.

Since rates are generally more stable when there are funds to support operational needs, adjusted rates include:

Water

(two percent):

- ◆ service—\$4.51/month
- ◆ per unit—\$3.36
- ◆ more than 300 units—\$2.33
(one unit=750 gallons of water)

Wastewater

(two percent):

- ◆ service—\$8.05/month
- ◆ per unit—\$3.42

Storm water utility

(25 cent increase):

- ◆ service—\$3.25/month
- ◆ commercial units, for each 1,000 square feet more than 10,000—\$1/month

Refuse and recycling

(\$1 increase):

- ◆ 64-gallon cart—\$14.65/month
- ◆ 35-gallon cart—\$13.30

Effective January 1



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For more information, contact staff at 507-387-8665 or mfralish@city.mankato.mn.us.

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To align with state mandates, water conservation is key. The city is no longer allowed to discount rates for use of large amounts of water. An important part of Mankato's extensive utility rate study was to ensure compliance with state statutes, which requires a water conservation rate structure by 2015. It's expected that the new water conservation rate structure will impact utility rates.

It's responsible to have a rate structure that plans for long-range capital needs for the next 40 years. Mankato's utility rate structure will change significantly. Effective July 1, 2014, the current rate structure, which charges a lower rate for water units used above 300, will be eliminated and the rate will be the same for any amount of water used each month. This is also a requirement of new state regulation.

How to apply to give input into future recommendations about Mankato's water conservation programs and rate structure: City staff is studying conservation programs and rate structures to ensure compliance. A citizen input committee will be formed with representatives from residences, commercial properties and industries to gather ideas and further research before a recommendation about water conservation programs and a rate structure is made to the Mankato City Council. If interested in participating in a citizen input committee, apply by simply contacting the city of Mankato at 311, 507-387-8600 or 311@city.mankato.mn.us.

Multi-family units, commercial and industrial customers who use more than 300 units of water will be treated as single family homes as required by the state. For example, if an apartment building has 10 apartments, each is considered the same as a house. The landlord will be charged for each apartment the fixed-rate fee single family homes pay for water. Since water and wastewater are billed according to actual usage, there's an opportunity to influence the utility bill amount.

Effective July 1, 2014