

Infographics

WHAT IS CHANGING IN 2026

- New water and wastewater rates and fees start in 2026 to fund critical system needs and meet state/federal financing requirements.
- In 2026, water base rates rise 4%, sewer base rates 10%, and usage rates for both 3%. Rates will be increased in at least this proportion until 2031.

WHY THE INCREASE IS NEEDED

- Current rates sit below total costs, so they don't keep up with operating needs or planned capital work.
- Proposed rates (dashed line) rise to full cost coverage by 2028 and maintain at least a 1.10 debt service coverage ratio required for SRF loans and grants.
- Reserves build each year and meet the minimum target shown in "Unrestricted Fund Balance," moving toward a goal of ~270 days of operating expenses.
- The plan smooths the wastewater project impact—costs climb in the early 2030s, but the proposed rate path spreads that increase over time instead of a single spike.

