

LCMC WATER DEPARTMENT—RATE CHANGES

WATER RATES—beginning January 1, 2025

(The tiered usage rates will increase starting with billing on the February 1, 2025, and will continue to be in effect after that.)

PLEASE MAKE SURE TO UPDATE YOUR BANK BILL PAYMENTS.

2025		
Water Base Rate Fee		
	ANNUAL	MONTHLY
TOTAL	\$1,068.00	\$89.00
<i>Breakdown of Fee</i>		
Water Operations Fee	\$372.00	\$31.00
Water Reserve Assessment	\$636.00	\$53.00
Water Loan Fund	\$60.00	\$5.00

2025			
Water Usage Fees - Monthly			
<i>1 cubic foot (cf) = 7.48 gallons (gal)</i>			
TIER	USAGE RANGE (IN CUBIC FEET (cf))		RATE
Baseline	0	to 700	Base Rate Only
Tier 1	701	to 1,400	Base Rate + \$0.03 per cf
Tier 2	1,401	to 2,800	Base Rate + \$0.05 per cf
Tier 3	2,801	and above	Base Rate + \$0.12 per cf

If you have any further questions or need more information, please do not hesitate to get in touch with our Public Works Department at 360-877-2728 or cbrownell@lakecushmanmc.com

The Board of Directors and staff take great pride in serving all of you. Our primary mission remains unchanged—to provide you with a quality product through an efficient and customer-focused water utility. During the November 9, 2024, board meeting, the Board of Directors approved the proposed water operational and reserve expense plan and the water fees and fines schedule, increasing the water rates to support our operations, provide sustained renewal of critical infrastructure, and strengthen the overall financial position of our organization. We do not profit from rate increases. We ask for the amount needed to cover the cost of services we provide.

Due to the increased costs of sending paper bills, LCMC is defaulting to a paperless billing method. As of July 14, 2024, the price of a First-Class Mail Forever Stamp is \$0.73.

Members not enrolled to receive a paperless bill will be charged an additional monthly fee of \$2.15. Members can sign up for paperless billing by completing a Member Contact Information & Authorization Form on our website or by going to <https://tinyurl.com/LCMC-Contact-Info-Form>. You do not need to pay online to receive a paperless bill.

Question: When are statements mailed/emailed?

Answer:

- Meters are read from the 1st through the 5th of each month.
- Each month's bill will include the base rate for that month and usage fees for the prior month.
- Bills are generated/sent out from the 6th through the 9th of each month.
- Automatic payments will be taken on the 26th of each month for any balances due.
- Bills are due on the 26th of each month.
- Late fees will be added on the 27th of each month.
- Turning off & locking down meters for non-payment will occur after the 28th of month three.
- If the account becomes past due, a separate reminder letter **WILL NOT** be sent. Past-due bills will be on colored paper.

Question: What are the "service dates" on the statement?

Answer: The Service Dates or Base Rate Period is for the month being billed.

Question: What are the “reading dates” on the statement?

Answer: The Reading Dates or Usage Period is for the month before the month being billed and charges for usage over the allotted cubic feet.

Question: What is the “base rate” on the statement?

Answer: The base rate is the minimum amount due and is for general maintenance and care of the water system based on the projected expenses for the calendar year. Everyone connected to the water system pays this fee, regardless of how much water they consume.

For more Water Billing FAQs, please go to the Public Works Department page on the LCMC Website.

<https://www.lakecushmanmc.com/lcmc-public-works.html>

LCMC WATER DEPARTMENT—OTHER FEE CHANGES

Some of the significant changes to the LCMC Fee and Fine Schedule include:

DESCRIPTION	2024 CURRENT FEE		2025 NEW FEE	JUSTIFICATION
NEW CONNECTIONS / NEW ACCOUNTS / NEW OWNERS				
New Owner / Account Deposit	\$ 528.00		\$ 550.00	4% Increase, Rounded Up
New Water Connection Fee - Buy Into The Water System, Includes Meter	\$ 7,210.00	Ea Instance	\$ 7,500.00	4% Increase, Rounded Up
DISCONNECTIONS / RECONNECTIONS				
Disconnect & Reconnect [Delinquent Accounts] (Charged when the WRFA is generated, Covers The Disconnect And The Reconnect)	\$ 75.00		\$ 100.00	
BACKFLOW ASSEMBLY TESTING				
Administrative Fee For Backflow Assembly Testing		Ea Instance	\$ 15.00	Sending Out Letters, Updating Lists For Backflow Assembly Tester, Saving And Sending Out Test Results, Maintaining Database
VIOLATIONS				
Unauthorized Hydrant Use		Per Violation	\$ 750.00	Removed From Road Violation List And Moved Here As A Separate Violation
LATE FEES & PENALTIES				
Late Payment Interest	1.5%	Per Month	10.0%	Increase Percentage & Remove Flat Fee
METER TESTING, RELOCATION, OR REPLACEMENT				
Meter Testing Deposit - Meter Sent To Manufacturer	\$ 400.00		\$ 600.00	Pw Committee Recommendation
Meter Bench Test			\$ 50.00	New - Pw Committee Recommendation
Meter Replacement - Charged When A Lessee Requests That Their Full Meter (Meter Body & Register) Be Replaced Before It Fails.			\$ 400.00	New - Pw Committee Recommendation
Meter Register Replacement - Charged When A Lessee Requests That Their Meter Register Only Be Replaced Before It Fails.			\$ 200.00	New - Pw Committee Recommendation
MISCELLANEOUS CHARGES				
Meter Data Log Usage - Fee waived if associated with an appeal			\$ 75.00	Staff & Pw Committee Recommendation, covers labor & other associated fees
Certified Mail Fee	\$ 10.00	Per Piece	\$ 12.00	Usps Increase
Paper Mailing Fee	\$ 2.00	Per Mailing	\$ 2.15	Usps Increase