



from the City of Stratford

Rate and Fee Change Notice

On August 25, 2026, the City Council held a public hearing and approved the proposed FY 2026–2027 Operating Budget. The City Council also adopted the “No-New Revenue” tax rate for FY 2026–2027 to reduce reliance on property tax and intends to adopt that rate again for FY 2027–2028. This action reduces the City’s tax rate by 7.3%, from \$0.820486 per \$100 valuation in FY 2025–2026 to \$0.76045 per \$100 valuation in FY 2026–2027.

The adopted FY 2026–2027 Budget continues significant adjustments to water, sewer, and trash fees for the second consecutive year. Prior to last year, the City had not adjusted these fees to account for the significant inflation of the preceding 10 years. Consequently, the Utilities Fund operated at annual losses exceeding \$150,000 for several years. In June and July 2026, City staff completed an internal rate review to determine the cost of providing water, sewer, and trash services. The new rates begin aligning revenue with the cost of each service. The goal is for each utility service to support its own operations, thereby reducing and ultimately eliminating the Utility Fund’s reliance on tax-supported revenue.

The new water and sewer rates will take effect with the November 2026 billing and will apply to services provided beginning on or about October 1, 2026. The new trash rates and all other rate changes will take effect with the October 2026 billing.

The attached document compares the current FY 2025–2026 rates with the adopted FY 2026–2027 rates. It includes only rates with significant changes and is not a complete rate schedule. The full Schedule of Rates and Fees and the adopted FY 2026–2027 Budget are available to view or download in the Financial Transparency section of the City’s website:

<https://stratfordtx.us/financial-transparency>.

**Comparison of Significant Rates and Fee Changes
For FY 2026-2027**

Water Rates		
	FY 2025-2026 Current Rates	FY 2026-2027 Adopted Rates
Inside City Limits – residential and non-residential		
Monthly Base Water Rate	\$20.00	\$24.00
Per 1,000-gallon tiered consumption rate		
0,001 – 9,999 gallons per each 1,000	\$6.00	\$3.50
10,000 – 19,999 gallons per each 1,000	\$6.25	\$3.70
20,000 – 29,000 gallons per each 1,000	\$6.50	\$3.90
30,000 – 39,999 gallons per each 1,000	\$6.75	\$4.10
40,000 – 49,999 gallons per each 1,000	\$7.00	\$4.30
50,000 gallons and over per each 1,000	\$7.25	\$4.50
Outside City Limits – residential and non-residential		
Monthly Base Water Rate	\$30.00	\$27.60
Per 1,000-gallon tiered consumption rate		
0,001 – 9,999 gallons per each 1,000	\$6.00	\$4.03
10,000 – 19,999 gallons per each 1,000	\$6.25	\$4.26
20,000 – 29,000 gallons per each 1,000	\$6.50	\$4.49
30,000 – 39,999 gallons per each 1,000	\$6.75	\$4.72
40,000 – 49,999 gallons per each 1,000	\$7.00	\$4.95
50,000 gallons and over per each 1,000	\$7.25	\$5.18

Sewer Rates		
	FY 2025-2026 Current Rates	FY 2026-2027 Adopted Rates
Inside City Limits – residential and non-residential		
Monthly Base Sewer Rate	\$33.00	\$34.00
Non-residential consumption rate per each 1,000 of water consumption	\$0.50	\$2.50
Outside City Limits – residential and non-residential		
Monthly Base Sewer Rate	\$33.00	\$39.10
Non-residential consumption rate per each 1,000 of water consumption	\$0.50	\$2.88

Trash Rates		
	FY 2025-2026 Current Rates	FY 2026-2027 Adopted Rates
Residential Trash Rate	\$18.75	\$26.75
Commercial Trash Rates		
Per dumpster picked up once per week	\$33.75	\$53.50
Per dumpster picked up twice per week	\$67.50	\$107.00
Per dumpster picked up three times per week	\$101.25	\$160.50

Utility Surcharge		
	FY 2025-2026 Current Rates	FY 2026-2027 Adopted Rates
Utility Surcharge - (dedicated specifically to payoff Utility Fund debt)	\$7.00	\$10.00

Recycle Center Rates		
	FY 2025-2026 Current Rates	FY 2026-2027 Adopted Rates
Small Pickup Bed (light/heavy)	\$15	\$15/\$30
Full Sized Pickup Bed (light/heavy)	\$15	\$25/\$55
8' Trailer (light/heavy)	\$30	\$35/\$60
10' – 14' Trailer (light/heavy)	\$35	\$65/\$110
12' Dump Trailer (light/heavy)	\$35	\$80/\$140
16' or longer Trailer (light/heavy)	\$45	\$75/\$140
16' Dump Trailer (light/heavy)	\$45	\$140/\$280
Individual Items		
Single Mattress (small/large)	N/A	\$15/\$25
Furniture (small/large)	N/A	\$15/\$25
Appliances (small/large)	N/A	\$10/\$30