FORT WORTH®

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Proposed FY27 Stormwater Utility Fee Increase

1. Why is Stormwater Management recommending a fee increase and what will the fee increase be used for?

The mission of the Stormwater Management program is to "Protect People and Property from Harmful Stormwater Runoff." The Stormwater utility fee pays for MAINTAINING the existing system of public drainage pipes and engineered channels, so that they function as originally designed, IMPROVING the drainage system through construction of projects to reduce flooding and channel erosion hazards, WARNING the community of flooding and erosion hazards that cannot be addressed in the short term, and REVIEWING development for compliance with City stormwater standards.

The purpose of the proposed stormwater utility fee increase is to begin a new program dedicated to mid-sized flood mitigation projects generally in the $1M to $15M range and increase participation in partnership projects. The increase will also improve engineered channel and Stormwater Facility Maintenance Agreement (SFWMA) asset management and inspections by increasing the number of SWFMA inspections from approximately 190 to 300 locations annually and engineered channel inspections from approximately 15 miles to 20 miles annually.

The increase will improve public safety, reduce flood risk to homes and businesses, create more opportunities for cost effective, coordinated capital work through partnerships, strengthen infrastructure asset management, and improve maintenance, capital planning and system performance, while enhancing the community's long-term resilience, benefitting neighborhoods across the city.

2. How much is the proposed fee increase?

A 5% increase to the Stormwater Utility fee is proposed. The proposed Fiscal Year 2027 (FY27) fee increase would provide a partial annual revenue increase of $2.6 million for FY27 since it would not take effect until January 1, 2027. The increased fee would bring a full annual increase of $3.5 million during fiscal year 2028.

3. How are Stormwater fees calculated for residential property, and how does the proposed fee increase impact the rates for residential property?

Low Occupancy residential property, such as one-family or two-family properties, are calculated based on the total estimated impervious area determined by residential square footage. The Equivalent Residential Unit (ERU) is used to determine the number of billing units for residential property. The median single-family residential parcel in Fort Worth has been determined to have approximately 2,600 square feet of impervious area or hard surface or one (1) ERU. Low Occupancy residential properties are placed in one of four tiers depending on square footage. The table below shows the monthly impact of the potential increase.

Low Occupancy Billing Tier	Billing Unit Equivalent Residential Units (ERU)	Billing Basis	Current Monthly Rate	Proposed Monthly Increase 5%	Proposed Monthly Rate, Effective January 1, 2027
Tier 1	0.5 ERU	Up to 1,300 square feet	$3.65	$0.18	$3.83
Tier 2	1.0 ERU	1,301 to 2,475 square feet	$7.29	$0.36	$7.65
Tier 3	1.5 ERU	2,476 to 3,394 square feet	$10.94	$0.55	$11.49
Tier 4	2.0 ERU	3,395 square feet and above	$14.58	$0.73	$15.31

More information can be found on the City's FY27 Budget webpage at
www.fortworthtexas.gov/departments/the-fwlab/budget/fy2027

4. How are Stormwater fees calculated for High Occupancy Residential/Non-Residential Property such as commercial and industrial properties and apartments, and what is the impact of the proposed fee increase?

High Occupancy Residential/Non-Residential Property such as commercial and industrial properties and apartment fees are based on the amount of actual impervious surface area on the property determined through a review of site plans and aerial photography. Impervious surfaces are hard surface areas such as rooftops on buildings, sidewalks, driveways and parking lots. Impervious surface area is divided by the standard Equivalent Residential Unit (ERU) of 2,600 square feet to determine the number of billing units on the property. The number of billing units is multiplied by the standard ERU rate, currently at $7.29, proposed at $7.65.

For example, the fee for a small commercial property with a total hard surface area of 1 acre or 43,560 square feet is currently $123.93 monthly and is proposed to change to $130.05 per month, effective January 1, 2027, calculated as follows:

43,560 square feet ÷ 2,600 square feet/ERU= 16.75 billing units, rounded up to 17

17 billing units x $7.65 per month/ERU = $130.05 per month

5. If adopted by City Council, when would the fee increase take effect?

The fee increase would take effect on January 1, 2027 and would appear on the January water bill.

6. What is the timeline for City Council to vote on and adopt the proposed fee increase?

A public hearing on the budget, which includes the proposed fee increase, will take place on September 15, 2026. City Council will vote to adopt the operating budget and 5-year Capital Improvement Program (CIP), which includes the proposed fee increase.

7. Where can I find more information on the proposed Stormwater fee increase and how can I provide feedback?

More information can be found on the City's FY27 Budget webpage at
https://www.fortworthtexas.gov/departments/the-fwlab/budget/fy2027

The site includes a link to view the slides and watch the presentation provided to City Council on June 16, 2026, about the FY27 proposed stormwater utility fee increase.The webpage includes information on the budget public meetings and a form that can be submitted with questions regarding the FY27 budget.

More information on the Stormwater Management Program can be found at
https://www.fortworthtexas.gov/departments/tpw/stormwater