



Dawn Jennings <dawn.jennings@como.gov>

WLABPublic: Most Important Affordability Metric

1 message

JR Windsor <jimwindsor520@gmail.com>

Wed, Apr 1, 2026 at 2:49 PM

To: wlabpublic@como.gov

Cc: Mike Murphy <m.murphy@buzcomm.com>, "Kirkwood, Isabel (MU-Student)" <ikknkn@missouri.edu>

To the Members of the Water & Light Board

Utility customers are paying for millions of general fund expenses through intragovernmental fees and transfers (also the fraudulent annexation of the water plant that increased water property tax P.I.L.O.T.). This has resulted, and will result, in increased utility rates. When utility cost-of-services studies are done, those types of fees are considered "administrative fees" and are recovered through base charges, meaning the minimum amount a customer pays before using any service like water, electricity, or sewer, is higher than it needs to be.

I calculated the minimum amount for a residential customer for the five city utilities. **The range is \$67.65 to \$112.41.** The largest difference is in the size of the water meter (5/8" vs 1") which increases the base charge for both water and sewer. I also included the difference between small vs large roll-cart and the lowest and highest stormwater charge. Water and electricity are subject to P.I.L.O.T. and sales tax and I increased the base charge for those two utilities accordingly (file attached).

The City Council never sees the detail of intragovernmental charges. In February, they received a presentation on the General Fund financial state and intragovernmental charges were mentioned **but not** the General Administration Fee that provides \$13.9 million (see February 16th City Council work session on the meetings portal - pages 12 and 15 of presentation).

The five utilities pay \$9.9 million of the General Administration Fee but general fund departments, such as police and fire, pay nothing unless they receive state or federal funds (like health department) or they get funds from dedicated sales tax (like P&R and Transit) or they get their funding from other intragovernmental fees (like IT). (Yes I'm speculating - no proof but look at the areas charged and it seems apparent - intragovernmental fee file attached)

Other questionable intragovernmental fees are Public Communications Fee, Building Maintenance, Janitorial Service, and Building Utility Charges - all heavily funded by some or all of the utilities.

I have attached one final file that shows an alternate calculation that reduces the amount paid by utilities (FTE Calculation). While it doesn't reduce the charges as significantly for water and electricity, there are other charges (like the water plant annexation) that could reduce the amount of rate increases needed. Moreover, base charges would not have to be increased so that ratepayers are at least using something before being charged.

If the W&L Board is serious about customer affordability, please ask for full transparency on this issue and advise the City Council to commit to ending the practice of using the utilities as "cash cows" at the expense of ratepayers.

Thank You

Jim Windsor - Ratepayer and Citizen

3 attachments **Base Utility Cost.xlsx**
11K **Intragovernmental Charges - March 2026.xlsx**
34K **Intragovernmental Charges - FTE Calculation.xlsx**
16K