

The Buckeye City Council formed the 2025 Citizen Water and Wastewater Rate Committee (WRC) made up of residents and community members. The committee reviewed detailed financial data and system needs, ensuring their recommendations reflect the true cost of service while keeping rates as fair as possible.

As with nearly everything in life, the costs associated with providing utility services continue to rise. The city has not adopted new rates in a decade. In that time, the Water Resources Department's enterprise funds have been impacted by inflation and cost drivers in much the same way as the residents of Buckeye. As a result, rates must be raised to ensure the continued delivery of safe and reliable water and wastewater services to our customers.

Utility rates go towards all costs associated with providing drinking water and wastewater services. Costs associated with electricity, chemicals, personnel, fuel for vehicles and equipment, debts, certificates, training, meter reading and billing, corrective and preventive maintenance activities and asset management requirements.

Buckeye's water and wastewater systems operate as an enterprise fund, meaning every dollar collected goes directly back into operating, maintaining and improving the system. The city does not profit from utility rates.

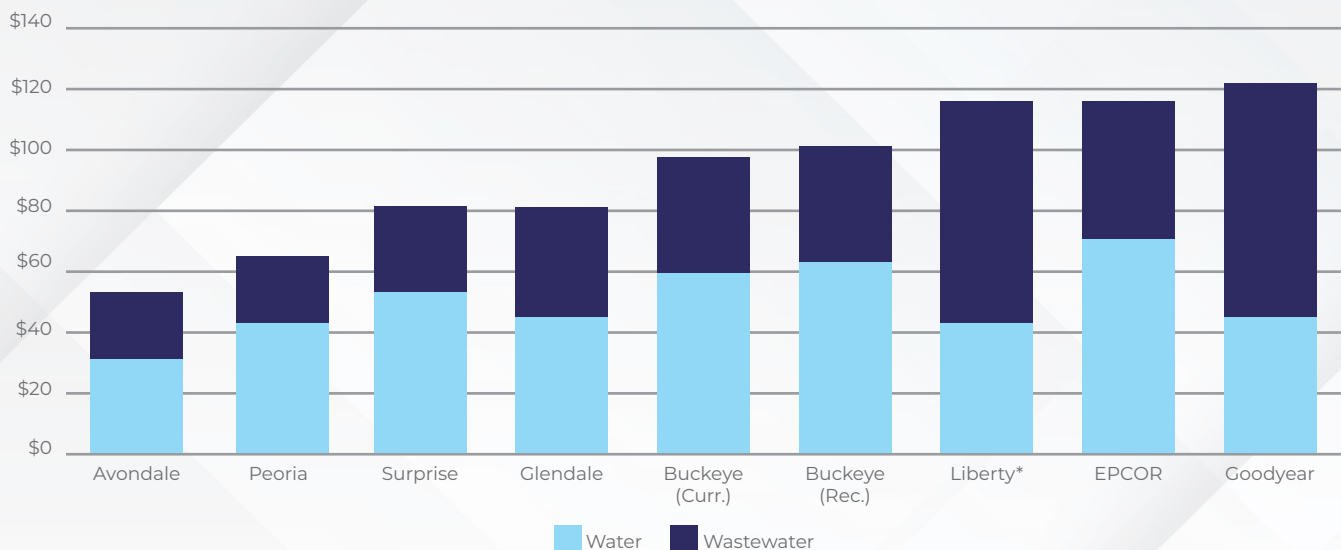
As in most municipalities, property taxes do not go towards the operation of the utilities. Utilities are considered enterprise funds, where the cost to deliver the water and sewer services are recouped by the rates. Enterprise funds do not receive any tax revenues. Property tax revenues go towards other city services such as Police, Fire, parks, street maintenance, and general government operations.

The tax rate is not changing and the environmental fee will still be the same. You will notice that the \$3.05 cent fee for repair and replace will go away.

CITY RATE COMPARISONS

While Buckeye's rates are higher than some utilities, both public and private, they are not the highest in the valley. In fact, comparing our 1" meter rates to the 1" meter rates of other utilities shows that some are higher than us including EPCOR and Goodyear. Surprise sewer rates are lower than us, but their water rates are higher.

MONTHLY RESIDENTIAL TOTAL (1" METER, 6K WATER, 4K WASTEWATER)



* Liberty Application with ACC filed 6/30/2025

IMPACTS TO YOU

Rates are based on actual usage and meter size. Higher users pay more because they consume more water and place greater demand on the system. This structure ensures fairness across all customer types.

Typical households will see a gradual increase of no more than 5% per month in their combined water and wastewater bill each year for the next five years. The gradual increase helps balance affordability with the city's operational needs.

WHAT HAPPENS IF RATES AREN'T ADJUSTED?

Without rate adjustments, the city's water and wastewater funds could fall below sustainable levels, making it difficult to maintain infrastructure, keep up with rising costs or invest in new water supplies for the future.

HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATIONS (HOA'S)

HOA fee structures vary by community based on use and size of pipes used. Opportunities were offered for HOAs to explain the new rates, answer questions and provide guidance on reducing landscape water use. HOA leadership who was not able to meet with Water Resources who is still interested in learning more or has questions is invited to email Jaymie Parker at jparker@buckeyeaz.gov.

CITYWIDE RATE INCREASE

Whether the infrastructure to your home or business is new or old, it must be maintained, and the needs of each part of the city can also change. Buckeye does have some areas of the city where water infrastructure dates back to the 1960s, but other places like Tartesso and Sundance are coming up on 20 years old, all of these assets require rehabilitation and replacement.

A few examples of recent investment include investing \$9 million in fluoride and arsenic treatment for the Tartesso area, and \$18 million invested into the Sundance reclamation facility. These are revolving expense that we need to keep up with to continue providing you great service.

IMPORTANT DATES

Council to vote to issue Notice of Intent (NOI) to Increase Water & Wastewater Rates: **February 3**
Council to vote to adopt new rates: **April 7**
If passed, date new rates take effect: **May 13**

More information at buckeyeaz.gov/waterrates

