CURE COMMISSION REPORT
FY 2025 WATER SYSTEM RATE STUDY
AUGUST 2025

The Alexandria City Council is required by law to review and balance its utility rates, energy cost adjustment, and capital needs in regular intervals to ensure the viability of its enterprise operating as the Alexandria Utility Systems (AUS). The Alexandria City Council is Alexandria's Rate Making Authority for the utility departments, including electric, water, gas and wastewater. The rate making function includes immediate, intermediate and long-term resource planning using various outside subject matter experts.

Periodic evaluation of the adequacy of the City's existing rate charges for utility service and adjustments—including revenue requirements (the overall adjustment in rates needed to forecast the cash requirements of each utility, reduce inter-utility subsidies, and maintain appropriate cash reserves), cost of services (determining each class's equitable share of the utility revenue requirements), and rate design (the adjustment needed to reflect cost of services and remain sensitive to customer rate impacts). For this purpose, the City of Alexandria created the Commission on Utility Reform and Equity. Of the several purposes of the Commission, one is to evaluate the adequacy of the City's rate schedules for the existing utility services and recommend changes as needed.

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WATER SYSTEM RATE STUDY

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SECTION 1: DEFINITIONS AND ABBREVIATIONS

ATV: Affordability Threshold Values. The percentage of median household income that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency reports that being the amount of price burden that approaches unaffordability for basic water service. The percentage reported is 1.5% for water.

AUS: Alexandria Utility System.

CAP: Customer Assistance Program. A program established by a municipality to assist poverty households with water and sewer bill payments.

CCF: A unit of water measurement that means 100 cubic feet of water; which equates to 748 gallons.

CIP: Capital Improvement Program.

CPI-U: Consumer Price Index for all Urban consumers – the measure of changes in U.S. consumer prices as issued by the U.S. Department of Labor – Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Distribution & Production: Water wells, transmission mains, distribution mains, storage tanks, pump stations, etc. for transportation of water to customers.

EPA: Environmental Protection Agency.

FY: Fiscal Year.

GPM: Gallon Per Minute.

LDH: Louisiana Department of Health.

MGD: Million Gallons Per Day.

MHI: Median Household Income. The midpoint of the distribution of community income or the 50th percentile. Half of the households in the community earn more than the median income, and half of the households earn less than the median income. The latest reporting by the U.S. Census Bureau for Alexandria totals $47,357.

O&M: Operations and Maintenance.

PIAL: Property Insurance Association of Louisiana.

WMR&WP Program: Water Main Replacement and Water Production Program.

SECTION 2: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The City of Alexandria Utility System (AUS) provides the following services to the residents of the City as authorized by its charter: Electricity, Gas, Water, Wastewater, and Waste Disposal.

The City of Alexandria's Water Department provides water to approximately 23,064 accounts for residential, industrial, and commercial use. The Water Department maintains approximately 400 miles of water mains that range in size from 4" to 42" pipe.

The City's water supply is sourced from groundwater, primarily drawn from the Kisatchie Well Field, located south of the City, and the McNutt Well Field, west of downtown. Wells draw from the Chicot, Evangeline, Williamson Creek, and Carnahan Bayou aquifers. The Kisatchie Well Field consists of 31 wells producing 300 to 1,000 gallons per minute (GPM) and 20 wells located in town that produce 200 to 920 GPM.

The Water Department also maintains and services four (4) high service pump stations, fifty-one (51) groundwater wells, eight (8) ground storage facilities, four (4) elevated storage facilities and one (1) standpipe.

To assist in insuring the proper and safe operation of the City's water system, the water Department utilizes an up-to-date SCADA System monitored 24 hours a day/365 days a year.

This document presents an analysis of the current financial operations of the Water Department and provides recommendations to increase revenues to cover the costs of operating and maintaining the City's Water Production and Distribution System, as well as to provide financial resources for Capital Improvements. Although the revenues received covered operational expenses over the past three (3) fiscal years, sufficient revenue was not generated to cover the combined expenses of principal and interest related to the water system, the contribution of allocated costs to Fund 401, contributions to the General Fund, and funding of Capital Improvements sufficient to maintain the long-term viability of the Water System. We estimate additional revenue totaling approximately $5.8 million is needed to meet the projected needs of the System.

We recommend the following modifications to the current rate structure for the Water System.

1. Modify the Water System billings from per 100 cubic feet (Ccf) of water to per 1,000 gallons of water usage. This change would allow for better customer understanding of usage and related billings and is the billing unit used more commonly by municipal systems within the state; and

2. Increase the monthly Base Service Charge and the monthly Commodity Charge to cover projected expenses and transfers, as outlined in Section 3B: Current and Proposed Rates; and

3. Include in upcoming Capital Improvement budget line items a total of $3.9 million per year, annually increased by 5% per year, to offset depreciation and age of the existing water system; and

4. To address deflationary or inflationary pressure on the Water System, the Monthly Base Service Charge and the Monthly Commodity Charge are to be adjusted annually in February of each year by the percentage amount reported by the Consumer Price Index – Urban (CPI-U) as issued by the U.S. Department of Labor for the previous calendar year, being either a decrease or an increase; and

5. Eliminate the Infrastructure Renewal Assessment in that the proposed monthly Customer Service Charge and monthly Commodity Charges are developed to include funding of the above noted Capital Improvements budget.

SECTION 2A: OVERVIEW OF WATER SYSTEM RATE STRUCTURE

The City's current Water Service Rates were last updated by Ordinance No. 203-2015 in December of 2015, over 9 years ago.

All customers pay a **Customer Service Charge** and a **Commodity Charge**.

Table 1 - Current Residential Monthly Customer Service Charge

Residential Monthly Customer Service Charge		
Monthly Rate	Current Rate	
Customer Service Charge:		
	Inside City Limits	Outside City Limits
1" and smaller meter	$4.79	$7.98
1.5" meter	$19.15	$31.89
2" meter	$23.96	$39.88

Table 2 - Current Residential Monthly Commodity Charge

Residential Monthly Commodity Charge				
Monthly Rate	Current Rates			
Commodity charge:	Inside City Limits		Outside City Limits	
	Per Ccf	Per 1,000 Gallons	Per Ccf	Per 1,000 Gallons
First 2,000 cubic feet, per Ccf (First 14,960 gallons, per 1,000 gallons)	$1.70	$2.27	$2.27	$3.04
Next 6,000 cubic feet, per Ccf (The next 44,883 gallons, per 1,000 gallons)	$1.82	$2.43	$2.19	$2.43
Next 32,000 cubic feet, per Ccf (The next 239,376 gallons, per 1,000 gallons)	$1.11	$1.48	$1.48	$1.98
Over 40,000 cubic feet, per Ccf (All over 299,220 gallons, per 1,000 gallons)	$0.84	$1.12	$1.12	$1.50

Table 3 - Current Commercial Monthly Customer Service Charge

Commercial Monthly Service Charge		
Monthly Rate	Current Rate	
Customer Service Charge:		
	Inside City Limits	Outside City Limits
1" and smaller meter	$4.79	$7.98
1.5" meter	$19.15	$31.89
2" meter	$23.96	$39.88
3" meter	$67.03	$111.59
4" meter	$88.64	$147.57
6" meter	$182.07	$303.13
8" meter	$319.22	$531.46
12" meter	$419.00	$656.00

Table 4 - Current Commercial Monthly Commodity Charge

Commercial Monthly Commodity Charge				
Monthly Rate	Current Rates			
Commodity charge:	Inside City Limits		Outside City Limits	
	Per Ccf	Per 1,000 Gallons	Per Ccf	Per 1,000 Gallons
First 2,000 cubic feet, per Ccf (First 14,960 gallons, per 1,000 gallons)	$1.70	$2.27	$2.27	$3.04
Next 6,000 cubic feet, per Ccf (The next 44,883 gallons, per 1,000 gallons)	$1.82	$2.43	$2.19	$2.43
Next 32,000 cubic feet, per Ccf (The next 239,376 gallons, per 1,000 gallons)	$1.11	$1.48	$1.48	$1.98
Over 40,000 cubic feet, per Ccf (All over 299,220 gallons, per 1,000 gallons)	$0.84	$1.12	$1.12	$1.50

In addition to the monthly Customer Service Charge and the Commodity Charge, customers are subject to these additional charges.

1. **Infrastructure Renewal Assessment:** There is imposed for water use to all consumers located inside the city limits and to customers located adjacent to existing water mains outside the city limits, a monthly water service infrastructure renewal assessment

Table 5 - Infrastructure Renewal Assessment

Infrastructure Renewal Assessment	
Inside City Limits	$0.06673/Ccf
Outside City Limits	$0.08808/Ccf

2. **Safe Drinking Water Fee:** LARS 40:31.33 provides that the Water System shall collect a fee from each customer totaling $12.00 annually. The fee shall be remitted to the Louisiana Department of Health as collected, at least quarterly; less a 5% retainage that is retained by the Water System for administrative costs of collection. The fee is related to state compliance with the federal Safe Drinking Water Act.

SECTION 2B: OVERVIEW OF WATER SYSTEM FINANCIAL CONDITION

As shown in the tables below, for the prior 3 fiscal years the Water System Revenue has averaged $7,630,660 annually, while Water System Expenses have averaged $6,392,791. This results in an average annual surplus of $1,237,869.

Note that this surplus does not include the expenses related to the financial support for meter readings, billings, financial management, principal and interest for existing debt, etc.; nor does it include transfers to the General Fund (5% of revenue). It should also be noted that the surplus does not account for the need to significantly increase the Capital Improvements budget. To maintain system integrity, approximately $3.9 million per year should be budgeted for a Capital Improvement Plan, and the amount budgeted increased at a rate of 5% per year. It is estimated that additional revenue annually totaling approximately $5.8 million is needed to meet the projected depreciation of the System.

WATER SYSTEM REVENUE FY 2022-2024[1]

Table 6 – Water System Revenue

Revenue Type	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	TOTAL
Residential	$4,236,031	$3,801,233	$5,279,805	$13,317,071
Commercial	$2,170,191	$2,378,191	$2,526,712	$7,075,095
Penalties	$766,617	$192,695	$907,246	$1,866,559
Tap Fees	$22,695	$8,850	$33,895	$65,440
Meters	$41,720	$69,730	$50,730	$162,180
Fire Hydrants	$96,400	$96,800	$95,400	$288,600
Water Tower Space	$30,716	$30,517	$32,842	$94,076
Other	$4,710	$7,535	$10,713	$22,958
Total Revenue	**$7,369,082**	**$6,585,552**	**$8,937,345**	**$22,891,980**
Average Annual Revenue				$7,630,660

[1] Based on reports provided by the City of Alexandria Utility Department

WATER SYSTEM EXPENSES FY 2022-2024[1]

Table 7 – Water System Expenses

Expense Type	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	TOTAL
Total Operating Expenses[2,3]	$5,734,339	$6,904,308	$6,539,727	$19,178,373
Average Annual Expenses				**$6,392,791**

[1] Based on reports provided by the City of Alexandria Utility Department.

[2] The reported Operating Costs do not include scheduled transfers to Fund 401 for billings, meter readings, administrative management, etc. which has historically calculated based on percentage of revenue of the Water Utility in proportion to the revenues of the entire Utility System, typically 7.5%. The reported Operating Costs also do not include the scheduled General Fund transfers of 5%, the transfers being similar to that typical of a franchise fee. The Operating costs also do not include principal and interest for existing long-term debt.

[3] The Operating Costs reported includes depreciation expenses as follows:

2021-2022: $1,737,749
2022-2023: $1,702,819
2023-2024: $1,652,837

SECTION 2C: WATER PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION, DISTRIBUTION OPERATIONAL AND CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS HISTORICAL COST AND PROJECTIONS

Distribution operational costs are expected to increase on average about 3% per year, primarily due to salary and benefit increases.

Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) costs are projected to increase on average about 5% per year, due to increasing construction costs.

SECTION 2D: CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

The City's CIP is recommended to budget approximately $3.9 million per year for needed water main replacements, pump station upgrades, and other general improvements to continue the program of modernization of the water system (refer to Section 6B: Capital Improvement Program (CIP)). The $3.9 million recommended budget figure is significantly more than historically budgeted (approximately $360,000 per year) due to the acknowledgment of the age of the City's water system and the costs attendant thereto. Due to projected inflationary pressure, the $3.9 million annual recommended budgeted amount should be increased by 5% annually. The expenditure annually of this amount indicates that at the end of a 50 year evaluation that the system's current value is maintained and not significantly depreciated.

SECTION 2E: GENERAL FUND ADMINISTRATIVE TRANSFER

The Water System rate structure should be developed to accommodate a transfer of funds to the City's General Fund totaling 5% of all revenues annually received. This transfer is similar to a typical franchise fee for operations of utility systems within public roads rights-of-way that are charged to other utility systems that may operate in the City. (It is typical that franchise fees range from 4% to 6% for other similar utility operations.)

SECTION 2F: UTILITY SYSTEM FUND TRANSFER

The operating expenses reported for the Water System do not include expenses related to general system management, billings, meter readings, and capital improvements related to these operations. The City has a Utilities System Fund (Fund 401) that is supported by transfers proportionally from each of the City's utilities, i.e. water, sewer, electric, and natural gas. The cost burden of Fund 401 related to the general operations of the overall Utility System totals approximately $10 million per year.

The Water System historically generates approximately 7.5% of the total revenues for the Utility System. Anticipating the requirements of increasing the system revenues for needed capital improvements and transfer, the future Water System revenues are projected to total approximately 10% of the overall Utility System portfolio. Therefore, a transfer of funds to cover the Water System's proportional cost for general system management etc. totaling 10% of annual revenues is projected.

SECTION 2G: SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDED PROPOSED ACTIONS

The following actions are recommended to be considered by the City Council for the prudent operation of the Water System:

1. Modify the Water System billings from per 100 cubic feet (Ccf) of water to per 1,000 gallons of water usage. This change would allow for better customer understanding of usage and related billings and is the billing unit used more commonly by municipal systems within the state; and

2. Increase the monthly Base Service Charge and the monthly Commodity Charge to cover projected expenses and transfers, as outlined in Section 3B: Current and Proposed Rates; and

3. Include in upcoming Capital Improvement budget line items a total of $3.9 million per year, annually increased by 5% per year, to offset depreciation and age of the existing water system; and

4. To address deflationary or inflationary pressure on the Water System, the Monthly Base Service Charge and the Monthly Commodity Charge are to be adjusted annually in February of each year by the percentage amount reported by the Consumer Price Index – Urban (CPI-U) as issued by the U.S. Department of Labor for the previous calendar year, being either a decrease or an increase; and

5. Eliminate the Infrastructure Renewal Assessment in that the proposed monthly Base Customer Service Charge and monthly Commodity Charges are developed to include funding of the above noted Capital Improvements budget.

SECTION 3: DETAIL OF FY 2025 RATE PROPOSALS

SECTION 3A: RATE DESIGN

The Water System rates are evaluated based on:

1. An analysis of the Water Department's historical revenue and expenses.
2. Acknowledgement of the cost associated with general system management (Fund 401) with a cost allocation of 10% of Water System revenues.
3. Acknowledgement of the requirements for support of General Fund cost with a 5% transfer of Water System revenues.
4. Acknowledgement of the need for the funding of Capital Improvements with an annual budget totaling $3.9 million, annually increased by 5% to maintain system integrity.
5. A comparison of existing and proposed City water rates to other municipal and industry averages.
6. Utilizing the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Affordable Threshold Value (ATV) for a water usage totaling 3,750 gallons to compare to any proposed rate for that volume with goal to ensure any proposed rate does not exceed the ATV.

The City's current water rates are based on Ordinance No. 203-2015. Since 2015 Water Department Expenses have increased by over 66%.

Table 8 - Water System Expenditure Increases

Category	2015-2016 Actual Expenditures	Actual Expenditure Averages FY 22,23,24	% Increase since 2015
Salaries and Fringes (Distribution and Production)	$1,598,603	$2,357,356	48%
General Operating Costs (General Fund transfers and Utility Fund transfers)	$1,571,503	$2,430,924	55%
Capital Outlays (vehicles, equipment, meters, building improvements, etc.)	$249,686	$385,989	55%
Totals	**$3,419,792**	**$5,174,269**	**51%**
Revenue	**$6,951,317**	**$7,630,660**	**10%**

As shown above, there has been a notable increase in the cost of operating the Water Department since FY 15/16, approximately nine (9) years ago, when compared with the average expenditures and revenues for fiscal years 22,23, and 24. There has been an increase in expenses related to salaries and benefits. These factors have contributed to average expenses surpassing average revenues in recent years. Over the past nine (9) years, the expenses have increased more than five (5) times that of the revenue received (expenses increased 51%; revenues increased 10%).

The following table presents a comparison of the monthly Residential Customer Service Charges between the City, five (5) water systems regulated by the Louisiana Public Service Commission, and seven (7) municipal operated water systems.

The average base monthly Residential Customer Service charge for the other water systems totals $17.33 per month compared to the City's $4.79 charge for inside customers and $7.98 per month for outside customers. The average monthly charge by other water systems is 3.6 times the City's current inside residential charge.

Table 9 - Comparison of Monthly Residential Customer Charges

Residential Customer Service Charge	
City of Alexandria – Existing Inside	$5.79
City of Alexandria – Existing Outside	$8.98
Ascension Water Company	$15.52
Baton Rouge (BR Waterworks)	$10.00
Greater Ouachita	$24.50
Lafayette	$7.99
Lake Charles	$11.40
New Orleans	$9.69
Parish Water Company (EBR)	$14.35
Pineville	$21.94
Rapides Waterworks District No. 3	$31.20
Shreveport	$11.40
Slidell	$24.76
Utilities Inc. of Louisiana (Ascension & Assumption St. Tammany, EBR & WBR)	$25.18
Average Commodity Charge Per 1,000 Gallons Excluding Alexandria	**$17.33**

Note No. 1: The residential rates, both inside and outside are based on 1" or smaller meter sizes.
Note No. 2: The City Existing Rates include the $1.00 per month Safe Drinking Water fee.

The following tables present a comparison of the monthly Residential Commodity Charges between the City, five (5) water systems regulated by the Louisiana Public Service Commission, and seven (7) municipal operated water systems for a usage of 5,000 gallons per month and 9,000 per month.

For the 5,000 gallons per month analysis, similar to the monthly Customer Service Charge, the City's Commodity Charge is less than the average of other water systems. For the basis of comparison, the table below utilizes a volume of 5,000 gallons of metered usage. The average monthly effective Residential Commodity Charge for the comparison volume with other water systems is $6.04 per 1,000 gallons; compared to the City's effective Commodity Charge which totals $3.52 per 1,000 gallons. The average monthly effective Commodity Charge by other water systems is approximately 1.7 times the City's current effective Commodity Charge.

Table 10 - Comparison of Residential Commodity Charges

Residential Bill Comparison	5,000 gallons	Effective Rate/1,000 gallons
City of Alexandria – Existing Inside	$17.60	$3.52
City of Alexandria – Existing Outside	$24.74	$4.95
Ascension Water Company	$28.40	$5.68
Baton Rouge (BR Waterworks)	$15.25	$3.05
Greater Ouachita	$48.05	$9.61
Lafayette	$18.44	$3.69
Lake Charles	$19.80	$3.96
New Orleans	$46.83	$9.37
Parish Water Company	$20.74	$4.15
Pineville	$32.36	$6.47
Rapides Waterworks District No. 3	$45.40	$9.08
Shreveport	$21.64	$4.33
Slidell	$24.76	$4.95
Utilities Inc. of Louisiana (Ascension & Assumption St. Tammany, EBR & WBR)	$40.63	$8.13
Average 5k Bill & Average Commodity Charge Per 1,000 Gallons Excluding Alexandria	**$30.19**	**$6.04**

Note No. 1: The residential rates, both inside and outside are based on 1" or smaller meter sizes.
Note No. 2: The City Existing Rates include the $1.00 per month Safe Drinking Water fee.

For the 9,000 gallons per month analysis, similar to the monthly Customer Service Charge, the City's Commodity Charge is less than the average of other water systems. For the basis of comparison, the table below utilizes a volume of 9,000 gallons of metered usage. The average monthly effective Residential Commodity Charge for the comparison volume with other water systems is $5.39 per 1,000 gallons; compared to the City's effective Commodity Charge which totals $3.00 per 1,000 gallons. The average monthly effective Commodity Charge by other water systems is approximately 1.8 times the City's current Commodity Charge.

Table 11 - Comparison of Residential Commodity Charges

Residential Bill Comparison	9,000 gallons	Effective Rate/1,000 gallons
City of Alexandria – Existing Inside	$27.03	$3.00
City of Alexandria – Existing Outside	$37.40	$4.16
Ascension Water Company	$46.42	$5.16
Baton Rouge (BR Waterworks)	$22.88	$2.54
Greater Ouachita	$79.45	$8.83
Lafayette	$26.80	$2.98
Lake Charles	$31.00	$3.44
New Orleans	$86.31	$9.59
Parish Water Company	$30.01	$3.33
Pineville	$53.20	$5.91
Rapides Waterwork District No. 3	$73.80	$8.20
Shreveport	$36.27	$4.03
Slidell	$34.32	$3.81
Utilities Inc. of Louisiana (Ascension & Assumption St. Tammany, EBR & WBR)	$61.23	$6.80
Average 9k Bill & Average Commodity Charge Per 1,000 Gallons Excluding Alexandria	**$48.47**	**$5.39**

Note No. 1: The residential rates, both inside and outside are based on 1" or smaller meter sizes.
Note No. 2: The City Existing Rates include the $1.00 per month Safe Drinking Water fee.

The following table shows a comparison of monthly bills for residential users, including both Customer Service Charge and Commodity Charges. This comparison, depending on the volume purchased, shows that the average residential bill for other water systems is approximately 1.85 times greater than the City's respective residential water bill.

Table 12 - Residential Bill Comparison

Residential Bill Comparison	Minimum Bill	2,000 gallons	Effective Rate/1,000 gallons	3,000 gallons	Effective Rate/1,000 gallons	3,750 gallons	Effective Rate/1,000 gallons	5,000 gallons	Effective Rate/1,000 gallons	9,000 gallons	Effective Rate/1,000 gallons	15,000 gallons	Effective Rate/1,000 gallons
City of Alexandria – Existing Inside	$5.79	$10.51	$5.26	$12.87	$4.29	$14.64	$3.90	$17.60	$3.52	$27.03	$3.00	$41.19	$2.75
City of Alexandria – Existing Outside	$8.98	$15.30	$7.65	$18.45	$6.15	$20.85	$5.56	$24.74	$4.95	$37.40	$4.16	$56.33	$3.76
Ascension Water Company	$15.52	$16.81	$8.41	$19.39	$6.46	$22.76	$6.07	$28.40	$5.68	$46.42	$5.16	$73.45	$4.90
Baton Rouge (BR Waterworks)	$10.00	$10.00	$5.00	$11.44	$3.81	$12.87	$3.43	$15.25	$3.05	$22.88	$2.54	$34.32	$2.29
Greater Ouachita	$24.50	$24.50	$12.25	$32.35	$10.78	$38.24	$10.20	$48.05	$9.61	$79.45	$8.83	$126.55	$8.44
Lafayette	$7.99	$12.17	$6.09	$14.26	$4.75	$15.83	$4.22	$18.44	$3.69	$26.80	$2.98	$39.34	$2.62
Lake Charles	$11.40	$11.40	$5.70	$14.20	$4.73	$16.30	$4.35	$19.80	$3.96	$31.00	$3.44	$47.80	$3.19
New Orleans	$9.69	$21.29	$10.65	$27.09	$9.03	$34.39	$9.17	$46.83	$9.37	$86.31	$9.59	$145.53	$9.70
Parish Water Company	$14.35	$14.35	$7.18	$16.10	$5.37	$17.84	$4.76	$20.74	$4.15	$30.01	$3.33	$43.92	$2.93
Pineville	$21.94	$21.94	$10.97	$21.94	$7.31	$25.85	$6.89	$32.36	$6.47	$53.20	$5.91	$84.46	$5.63
Rapides Waterworks District No. 3	$31.20	$31.20	$15.60	$31.20	$10.40	$36.53	$9.74	$45.40	$9.08	$73.80	$8.20	$116.40	$7.76
Shreveport	$11.40	$14.32	$7.16	$15.78	$5.26	$17.98	$4.79	$21.64	$4.33	$36.27	$4.03	$63.18	$4.21
Slidell	$24.76	$24.76	$12.38	$24.76	$8.25	$24.76	$6.60	$24.76	$4.95	$34.32	$3.81	$48.66	$3.24
Utilities Inc. of Louisiana (Ascension & Assumption St. Tammany, EBR & WBR)	$25.18	$25.18	$12.59	$30.33	$10.11	$34.19	$9.12	$40.63	$8.13	$61.23	$6.80	$92.13	$6.14
Average Commodity Charge Per 1,000 Gallons Excluding Alexandria	**$17.33**	**$18.99**	**$9.50**	**$21.57**	**$7.19**	**$24.80**	**$6.61**	**$30.19**	**$6.04**	**$48.47**	**$5.39**	**$76.31**	**$5.09**
Average Effective Rate Per 1,000 Gallons Excluding Alexandria (Utilizing 5k,9k, & 15k)							**$5.50**						

Note No. 1: The residential rates, both inside and outside are based on 1" or smaller meter sizes.
Note No. 2: The dollar figures reported for the City's existing inside and outside rates include the Infrastructure Renewal Assessment charge.
Note No. 3: The City Existing Rates include the $1.00 per month Safe Drinking Water fee.

SECTION 3B: CURRENT AND PROPOSED RATES

Water rates have several drivers:

1. Production Costs – these are cost related to the construction and operation of water supply wells. The City has "out of town wells" being the wells in Kisatchie National Forest near Woodworth and "in town wells" being wells located throughout the City that have ready access to the City's electrical grid and auxiliary power; and

2. Distribution Costs – these are costs related to day to day operations of the water distribution system, including ground storage tanks, pump stations, elevated tanks, etc.; and

3. Capital Improvement Costs – these are costs related to improvements to the Water System to maintain longevity of the system over a projected 50 year lifespan; and

4. Management Costs – these are costs related to executive management, billings, meter readings, insurance related to Capital Improvements for support facilities, computers, etc. (for the COA – Utilities System Fund 401); and

5. General Fund Cost – these are costs related to the utilization of the City's public road rights-of-way and operations of indirect costs related to the Water System (this is equivalent to a typical utility operations franchise fee); and

6. State Sales and Use Tax (Commercial/Industrial Accounts) – these costs are related to a 2% sales tax on non-residential use of utilities, including natural gas, electricity, and water per Louisiana Revised Statutes 47:302.; and

7. Safe Drinking Water Act Fee – these costs are related to compliance with the federal Safe Drinking Water Act and a total of $12.00 annually is to be assessed and collected from every water account and funds received forwarded to the Louisiana Department of Health, less administrative retainage of 5%.

Customers are subject to one (1) additional charge.

1. All other customers are currently subject to **Infrastructure Renewal Assessment** charge. This charge is imposed for water service to all consumers located inside the city limits and to customers located adjacent to existing water mains outside the city limits a monthly water service Infrastructure Renewal Assessment. **This Rate Study recommends elimination of the Infrastructure Renewal Assessment in that the proposed monthly Customer Service Charge and Commodity Charges include projected revenues totaling $3.9 million per year for infrastructure improvements (i.e. Capital Improvements).**

The following tables shows the current and proposed rates for the Monthly Customer Service Charge for both Commercial and Residential accounts.

Table 13 - Current and Proposed Residential Monthly Service Charge

Current and Proposed Residential Monthly Service Charge				
Monthly Rate	Current Rate		Proposed Rate	
Customer Service Charge:				
	Inside City Limits[1]	Outside City Limits[1]	Inside City Limits[1,2]	Outside City Limits[1,2]
1" and smaller meter	$5.79	$8.98	$12.00	$16.00
1.5" meter	$20.15	$32.89	$35.00	$45.00
2" meter	$24.96	$40.88	$40.00	$50.00

[1] Includes $1.00 per month Safe Drinking Water Fee

[2] The proposed rate shall be adjusted in February of each year based on the Consumer Price Index – Urban (CPI-U) for the previous calendar year.

Table 14 - Current and Proposed Commercial Monthly Service Charge

Current and Proposed Commercial Monthly Service Charge				
Monthly Rate	Current Rate		Proposed Rate	
Customer Service Charge:				
	Inside City Limits[1]	Outside City Limits[1]	Inside City Limits[1,2]	Outside City Limits[1,2]
1" and smaller meter	$5.79	$8.98	$25.00	$30.00
1.5" meter	$20.15	$32.89	$40.00	$50.00
2" meter	$24.96	$40.88	$50.00	$60.00
3" meter	$68.03	$112.59	$80.00	$120.00
4" meter	$89.64	$148.57	$120.00	$180.00
6" meter	$183.07	$304.13	$225.00	$375.00
8" meter	$320.22	$532.46	$375.00	$575.00
12" meter	$420.00	$657.00	$570.00	$750.00

[1] Includes $1.00 per month Safe Drinking Water Fee

[2] The proposed rate shall be adjusted in February of each year based on the Consumer Price Index – Urban (CPI-U) for the previous calendar year.

Table 15 shows the Current and Proposed Monthly Commodity Charge for Residential accounts.

Table 15 - Current and Proposed Residential Commodity Charge

Current and Proposed Residential Monthly Commodity Charge								
Monthly Rate	Current Rates				Proposed Rates[2]			
Commodity charge:	Inside City Limits		Outside City Limits		Inside City Limits		Outside City Limits	
	Per Ccf	Per 1,000 Gallons	Per Ccf	Per 1,000 Gallons	Per Ccf	Per 1,000 Gallons	Per Ccf	Per 1,000 Gallons
First 2,000 cubic feet, per Ccf (First 14,960 gallons, per 1,000 gallons)	$1.70	$2.27	$2.27	$3.03	$2.32	$3.10	$3.07	$4.10
Next 6,000 cubic feet, per Ccf (The next 44,883 gallons, per 1,000 gallons)	$1.82	$2.43	$2.19	$2.93				
Next 32,000 cubic feet, per Ccf (The next 239,376 gallons, per 1,000 gallons)	$1.11	$1.48	$1.48	$1.98				
Over 40,000 cubic feet, per Ccf (All over 299,220 gallons, per 1,000 gallons)	$0.84	$1.12	$1.12	$1.50				

[2] The proposed rate shall be adjusted in February of each year based on the Consumer Price Index – Urban (CPI-U) for the previous calendar year.

Table 16 shows the Current and Proposed Commodity Charges for Commercial accounts.

Table 16 – Current and Proposed Commercial Commodity Charge

Current and Proposed Commercial Monthly Commodity Charge								
Monthly Rate	Current Rates				Proposed Rates[2]			
Commodity charge:	Inside City Limits		Outside City Limits		Inside City Limits		Outside City Limits	
	Per Ccf	Per 1,000 Gallons	Per Ccf	Per 1,000 Gallons	Per Ccf	Per 1,000 Gallons	Per Ccf	Per 1,000 Gallons
First 2,000 cubic feet, per Ccf (First 14,960 gallons, per 1,000 gallons)	$1.70	$2.27	$2.27	$3.03	$2.32[4]	$3.10[4]	$3.07[4]	$4.10[4]
Next 6,000 cubic feet, per Ccf (The next 44,883 gallons, per 1,000 gallons)	$1.82	$2.43	$2.19	$2.93				
Next 32,000 cubic feet, per Ccf (The next 239,376 gallons, per 1,000 gallons)	$1.11	$1.48	$1.48	$1.98	$1.31[5]	$1.75[5]	$1.68[5]	$2.25[5]
Over 40,000 cubic feet, per Ccf (All over 299,220 gallons, per 1,000 gallons)	$0.84	$1.12	$1.12	$1.50				

[2] The proposed rate shall be adjusted in February of each year based on the Consumer Price Index – Urban (CPI-U) for the previous calendar year.

[4] First 8,000 cubic feet, per Ccf (First 59,843 gallons, per 1,000 gallons)

[5] Over 8,000 cubic feet, per Ccf (All over 59,843 gallons, per 1,000 gallons)

SECTION 3C: BILL IMPACT OF PROPOSED RATE CHANGES

The following table shows the impact of the proposed rate changes on the average monthly residential bill.

Table 17 - Impact of Proposed Rate Changes Residential Customer

Usage (gallons/month)	Bill Amount Current Rates[6]	Statewide Comparison Average	Bill Amount Proposed Rates[7]	Change	
				$/mo.	%
Inside					
Minimum	$5.79	**$17.33**	**$15.25**	$9.46	63%
2,000	$10.51	**$18.99**	**$21.45**	$10.94	104%
3,000	$12.87	**$21.57**	**$24.55**	$11.68	91%
3,750	$14.64	**$24.80**	**$26.88**	$12.24	84%
5,000	$17.60	**$30.19**	**$30.75**	$13.15	75%
9,000	$27.03	**$48.47**	**$43.15**	$16.12	60%
15,000	$41.19	**$76.31**	**$61.75**	$20.56	50%
Outside					
Minimum	$8.98	N/A	**$20.00**	$11.02	124%
2,000	$15.30	N/A	**$28.20**	$12.90	84%
3,000	$18.45	N/A	**$32.30**	$13.85	75%
3,750	$20.85	N/A	**$35.38**	$14.53	70%
5,000	$24.74	N/A	**$40.50**	$15.76	64%
9,000	$37.40	N/A	**$56.90**	$19.50	52%
15,000	$56.33	N/A	**$81.50**	$25.17	45%

[6] Including current Infrastructure Renewal Assessment and $1.00 Safe Drinking Water Fee

[7] Not including an Infrastructure Renewal Assessment and including the $1.00 Safe Drinking Water Fee

The following table shows the impact of the proposed rate changes on the average monthly commercial bill.

Table 18 - Impact of Proposed Rate Changes Commercial Customer

Meter Size	Usage (gallons/month)	Bill Amount Current Rates[6]	Bill Amount Proposed Rates[7]	Change	
				$/mo.	%
Inside					
1”	30,000	$79.06	**$118.00**	$38.94	49%
2”	100,000	$236.68	**$306.00**	$69.32	29%
4”	300,000	$615.70	**$726.00**	$110.30	18%
6”	1,000,000	$1,557.68	**$2,056.00**	$498.32	32%
Outside					
1”	30,000	$101.95	**$153.00**	$51.05	50%
2”	100,000	$308.92	**$396.00**	$87.08	28%
4”	300,000	$835.49	**$966.00**	$130.51	16%
6”	1,000,000	$2,121.61	**$2,736.00**	$614.39	29%

[6] Including current Infrastructure Renewal Assessment and $1.00 Safe Drinking Water Fee

[7] Not including an Infrastructure Renewal Assessment and including the $1.00 Safe Drinking Water Fee

SECTION 4: UTILITY OVERVIEW

This section provides an overview of the utility and its operations. It is intended as general background information.

SECTION 4A: WATER UTILITY HISTORY

The water system is comprised of:

- 400 miles of mains; ranging from 4” diameter to 42” diameter
- 23,064 active meters
- 19,838 residential accounts (85%); 52% of volume of water metered
- 3,226 commercial and industrial/bulk sales accounts (15%); 48% of volume of water metered
- 31 water wells – Kisatchie well field (24-1967; 2-1982; 1-1986; 3-1997; 1-2000)
- 20 water wells – within corporate limits and environs (1-1942; 3-1955; 3-1965; 2-1985; 2-1990; 1-1995; 2- 2013; 1- 2014; 3-2020; 1-2022; 1-2023)
- 4 high service pump stations
- 8 ground storage tanks
- 4 elevated storage tanks; 0.5 MG to 1.5 MG
- 1 standpipe; 2.5 MGD (1967)

A map indicating the general limits of the City’s water distribution system is included as Appendix “A”.

SECTION 4B: CUSTOMER BASE

The City of Alexandria, Water Department services approximately 23,064 customers for residential, industrial, and commercial use.

Number of residential customers – 19,838. Percentage of residential customers – 85%. Residential customers utilize approximately 55% of the overall volume of water sold

Number of commercial and industrial/bulk sales customers - 2,882 (commercial); 344 (industrial/bulk sales). Commercial and industrial/bulk sales customers – 15%. Commercial and industrial/bulk sales customers utilize approximately 45% of the overall volume of water sold.

SECTION 4C: AFFORDABILITY

Water affordability is always a driving concern regarding the impact to households within a community. Affordability is challenged by rising costs for operations and maintenance, rising costs for upgrades to aging infrastructure, and deferred maintenance and improvements.

Although there is no single approach to define household affordability, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has conducted numerous studies comparing the cost for production and distribution of water and how the cost for delivery of that service impacts the disposable income of lower income households.

The EPA has established an affordability threshold for drinking water and wastewater bills combined at 3% of the Median Household Income (MHI). For purposes of analysis, 1.5% of the Median Household Income has been allocated to drinking water and the remaining 1.5% allocated to wastewater.

Another test for affordability is utilizing the analysis of the income resulting from eight (8) hours of work at the local minimum hourly wage as being the threshold for financial burden for low-income households.

The analysis for water and wastewater bills typically utilizes a sustainability volume of fifty (50) gallons per day and a typical household size of 2.5 residents. This results in an average monthly volume for comparison and affordability analysis of 3,750 gallons for a thirty (30) day month.

For the City of Alexandria, the Median Household Income totals $47,357.

For water costs affordability calculations, using the MHI of $47,357 times 1.5% results in an annual cost $710 for water service; or $59 per month.

The proposed cost of water service as noted herein (See Section 3B: Current and Proposed Rates) for 3,750 gallons totals $26.88; which amount is well below the EPA affordability threshold value.

The minimum hourly rate in Louisiana is $7.25 per hour. Using an eight (8) hour work day, the income totals $58. Assuming half of this cost is allocated to a water bill, this results in a total $29 allocated for water billings in a low income household. The proposed rate for 3,750 gallons totaling $26.88 is below threshold established using the minimum wage calculation for affordability.

For general information, the following Median Household Incomes are reported:

United States:	$78,538
Louisiana:	$60,023
Rapides Parish:	$55,946
Alexandria:	$47,357

SECTION 4D: DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM

To deliver water to its customers, the City owns 400 miles of water lines (which transport the water to various parts of the City) and approximately 23,064 active meter water services (which connect the water mains to the customers' water lines). These mains and services, along with their associated valves, storage tanks, booster pumpstations, wells and meters, represent the vast majority of the infrastructure used to deliver water in the City.

The City has an ongoing CIP to repair and replace its infrastructure over time; however, of recent years approximately $360,000 per year has been budgeted for Capital Improvements, which amount is significantly below that required to maintain the longevity of the system. Costs for main replacements, storage tank renovations, water well rehabilitations, pump and control replacements have been going up in recent years.

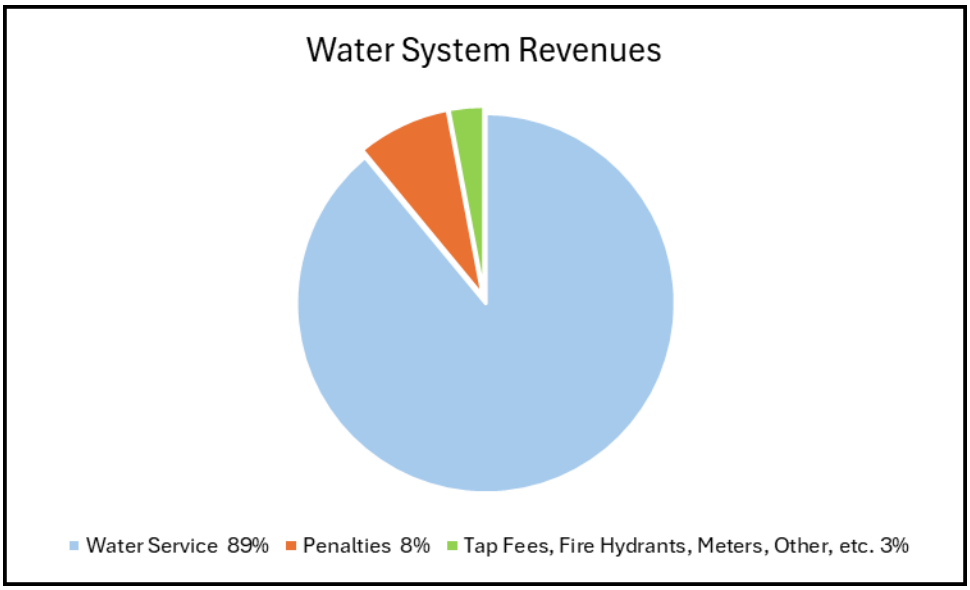
The CIP is recommended to be significantly increased to deal with continuation of replacement of aged water mains. The expenditure annually of approximately $3.9 million per year, is recommended. The $3.9 million annual expenditure for Capital Improvements figure is based on the estimated replacement value of the system totaling $192 million and assuming a 50-year straight line depreciation.

In addition to the CIP, the Water Department performs a variety of maintenance activities related to the system, such as monitoring the system for leaks, testing and replacing meters, monitoring the condition of water mains, and building and replacing water services for buildings being built or redeveloped throughout the City. The Water Department has a financial responsibility to share in the costs of other system-wide operational activities (such as customer service, billing, meter reading, supply planning, energy efficiency, equipment maintenance, and street restoration) with the City’s other utilities, through funding of Fund 401 and further needs to budget for a transfer to the General Fund of 5% of revenues (being equivalent to a franchise fee on other utilities within a municipality.

SECTION 4E: COST STRUCTURE AND REVENUE SOURCES

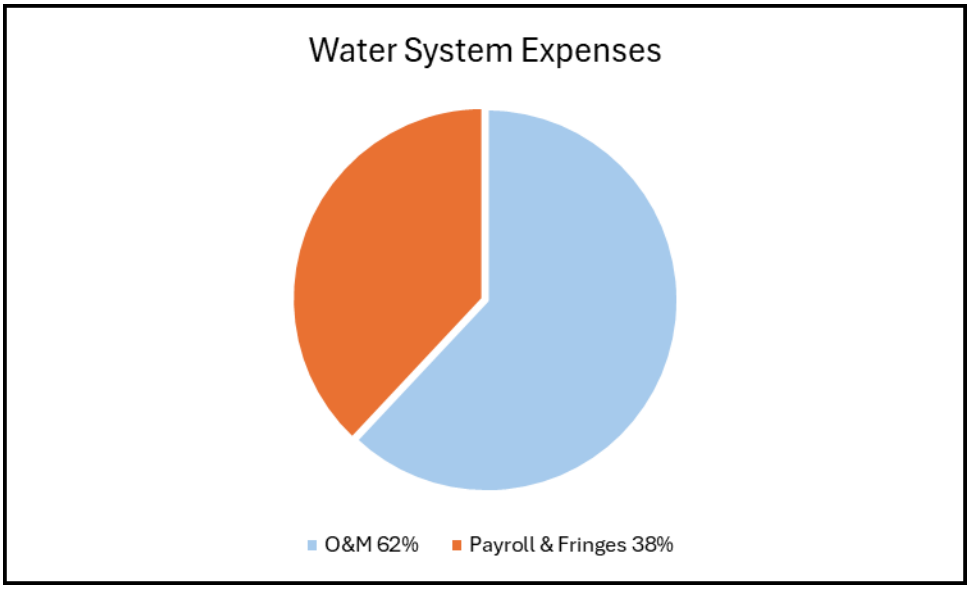
As shown in figure below, the Water Department receives about 89% of its revenue from sales of water and the remainder from connection fees, penalties, meters, and other sources.

Figure 1 - Water System Revenue



As shown in the figure below, operating and maintenance costs accounted for about 62% of the Water Department's costs. Payroll cost and payroll fringes account for 38% of the Water Department's costs.

Figure 2 – Water System Expenses



These expenses do not include the expenses of Fund 401 for meter reading, billings, management, etc. (estimated at 10% of Water System Revenues), General Fund transfers (5% of Water System Revenues), or Capital Improvements.

SECTION 4G: FUTURE USAGE FORECAST

The City's existing Water Production Infrastructure has the capacity to produce approximately 22 million gallons per day of potable water.

The current usage average is approximately 10 million gallons per day. This indicates that the City has excess capacity that can be utilized to its advantage to offer large volumes of fresh water for sale for either conventional residential and commercial community growth or industrial usage.

The City Water Department has been contacted recently by different entities discussing the availability of large volume purchases to support industrial developments. These requests are in the multi-million gallon per day range. The ability of the City to have reserve capacity to offer fresh water is a tremendous asset that few other communities possess.

SECTION 6: DETAILS AND ASSUMPTIONS

SECTION 6A: OPERATIONS

Operations costs include Customer Service, Operations and Maintenance, and Administration. Operations costs are generally projected to increase by 5% per year on average.

SECTION 6B: CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (CIP)

The City's Water System CIP consists of the following programs:

- Aged Water Main Replacement Program, under which the Water Department replaces aging water mains that are exhibiting high rates of leakage and contribute to customer complaints for stale and colored water. The program also replaces water services to residential and commercial properties at the same time new water mains are installed.

- Storage Tanks Renovation Program, which program covers the cost for scheduled cleaning and painting of both interior and exterior surfaces of the City's ground storage and elevated tanks. The interior of the tanks according to recommendations of the American Water Works Association (AWWA) are to be inspected on a three (3) year cycle. Deficiencies noted are to be corrected. The interior paint systems typically have a ten (10) to fifteen (15) year life. The exterior systems typically have a twenty (20) year life.

- Booster Pump Station Renovation Program, which program covers the cost to upgrade and replace pumping equipment, controls, SCADA, etc. related to aged and outdated equipment.

- Water Well Renovation and Replacement Program, which program undertakes routine evaluation of well casings and screens, well pumps, generators, etc. The program includes installation of new wells to replace wells taken out of service in order to maintain current production capacity.

- Lead Service Line Assessment Program, which program is an EPA and LDH required effort to assess existence and location and ultimate replacement of lead service lines within the system. The Water Utility is currently in the assessment phase.

- Customer Connections, which cover the cost when the Water Utility installs new services or upgrades existing services at a customer's request. The Water Utility charges a fee to these customers to cover the cost of these projects.

- Ongoing Projects, which cover the cost of routine leak repairs, small line replacements, minor projects to improve reliability or increase capacity, and other general improvements.

- Tools and Equipment, which cover the cost of capitalized equipment, such as directional boring, water main maintenance and emergency equipment.

- One-time Projects, which represent occasional large projects that do not fall into any other category.

The Water Utility has noticed that construction costs for infrastructure improvements have been increasing over the past 3-5 years at a rate faster than historically observed. Several factors are contributing to the increase in construction costs in the Central Louisiana area, such as a greater focus on infrastructure improvement by many municipal agencies and the higher demand for utility contractors within these fields.

Currently, the Utility Department plans to replace as many aging mains as possible within its current budget. However, if this trend of higher construction cost continues, the Water Department may require larger CIP budgets and as a result, an increase in rates to maintain a reasonable program of system improvements to offset aging equipment.

The estimated replacement value of the Water System, $192 million is based on the estimated cost of installing new water wells, storage tanks, booster pump stations, water mains, services, and meters.

On a revenue based evaluation, we estimate the value of the Water System to total approximately $42 million. This is based on the average revenue per customer of approximately $30 per month times twelve (12) months times a multiplier of five (5). This results in an average value per customer of approximately $1,820.

The difference in valuation between the replacement value and the value based on revenue is a function of the significant increase in utility construction costs verses the relatively flat growth in customer base of the City's Water System. Many of the assets of the Water System were constructed in the 1960's under a robust belief in the growth of the population over a forty (40) year planning period. The population growth as projected did not occur for various reasons. The shortfall in population growth is the largest factor in the difference between replacement value and revenue value of the system.

Much of the system's infrastructure was installed 40 to 70 years ago, with some segments of the system being 80 years of age. The age of a large portion of the system places it near or beyond the typical expected service life for water mains, service lines, water wells, tanks, booster pumps, and associated facilities. Despite the clear need for reinvestment, current annual capital spending is only approximately $360,000. This figure represents just 0.19% of the system's replacement value and is well below industry standards for utility reinvestment.

Best practices in utility asset management suggest that infrastructure systems require annual reinvestment of between 1.5% and 4% of their replacement value to maintain long-term performance. For the Alexandria Water System, a 2.0% reinvestment rate based on replacement value, translates to an annual capital improvement target of $3.9 million.

The reinvestment target, based on replacement value, is supported by a straight-line depreciation model over a 50-year asset life, where:

Annual Capital Need = Total Asset Value / Useful Life = $192,000,000 / 50 = $3,840,000 per year.

This approach provides a planning-level estimate for long-term capital investment and is widely used by public utilities to maintain fiscal discipline and system resilience.

Over the next 50 years, continuing to invest at the current level of $360,000 annually will result in a cumulative replacement shortfall of approximately $741 million (See Calculation 1 and Chart 1 below) compared to the recommended reinvestment level. This shortfall will create a growing backlog of necessary improvements and increase the likelihood of costly, unplanned emergency repairs and system failures.

Deferred investment can ultimately lead to rate shocks, public safety concerns, and the need for emergency bond-funded projects to restore basic service levels. This approach is financially inefficient and places an undue burden on future ratepayers.

Adopting the $3.9 million per year reinvestment strategy positions the City to:

- Extend the service life of existing infrastructure.
- Reduce lifecycle costs through proactive maintenance.
- Improve system reliability and safety.
- Distribute costs equitably across current and future ratepayers.
- Avoid large-scale capital crises that require emergency funding.

These outcomes align with the principals of intergenerational equity, where today's system users contribute proportionally to the maintenance and renewal of the infrastructure they rely on.

The following table presents a detailed 50-year schedule comparing two capital improvement investment strategies: $360,000 per year and $3,900,000 per year, both adjusted annually for inflation at 3%. Each year's investment is discounted to present-day value using a 3% discount rate. All figures are rounded to the nearest dollar and formatted for clarity.

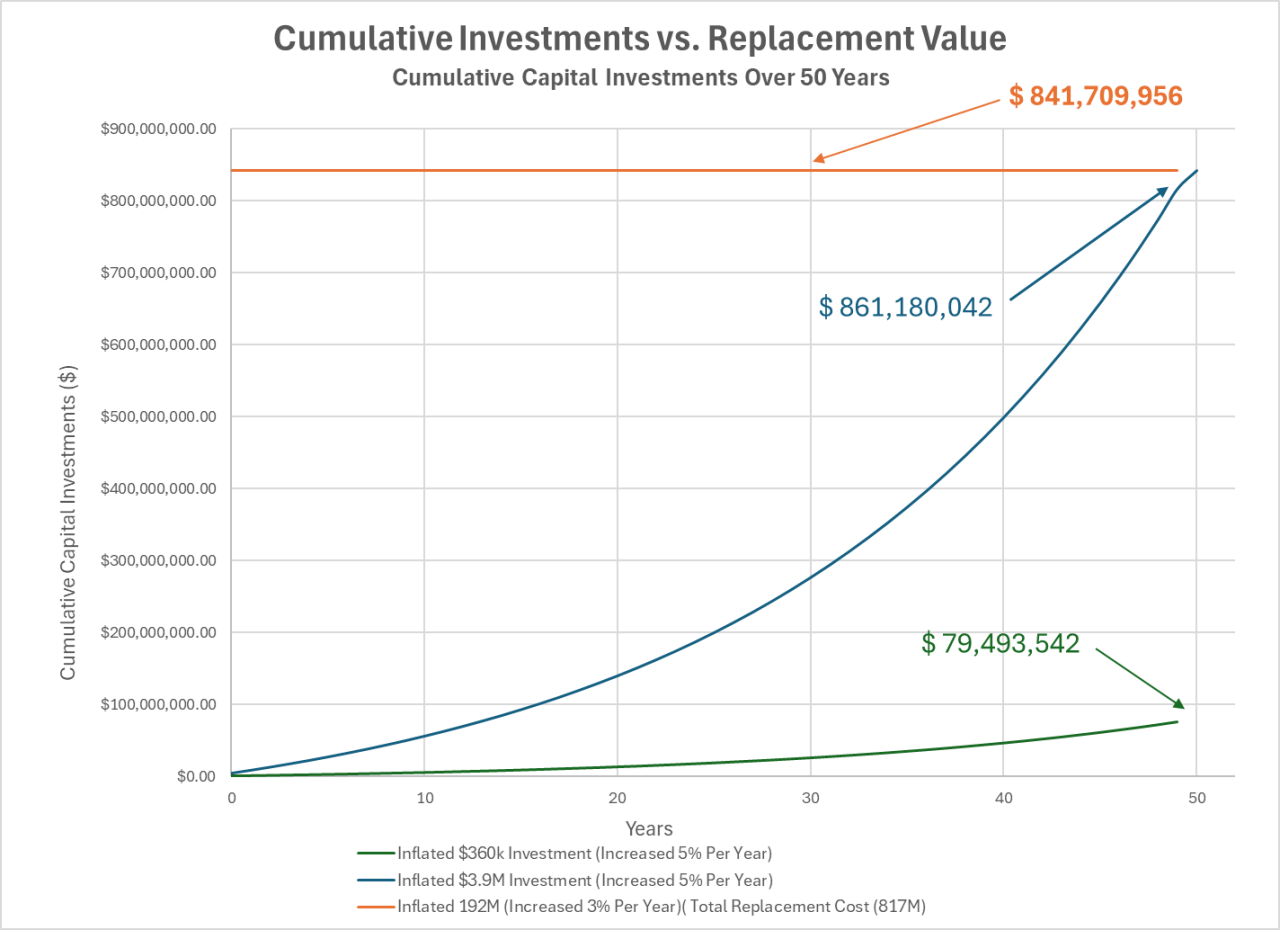
Table 19 – Capital Improvements Budget Annually & Replacement Costs

Year	Inflated $360k Investment (Increased 5% Per Year)	Inflated $3.9M Investment (Increased 5% Per Year)	Replacement Cost $192m (Increased 3% Per Year)
0	$360,000	$3,900,000	$192,000,000
1	$378,000	$4,095,000	$197,760,000
2	$396,900	$4,299,750	$203,692,800
3	$416,745	$4,514,738	$209,803,584
4	$437,582	$4,740,474	$216,097,692
5	$459,461	$4,977,498	$222,580,622
6	$482,434	$5,226,373	$229,258,041
7	$506,556	$5,487,692	$236,135,782

8	$531,884	$5,762,076	$243,219,856
9	$558,478	$6,050,180	$250,516,451
10	$586,402	$6,352,689	$258,031,945
11	$615,722	$6,670,323	$265,772,903
12	$646,508	$7,003,840	$273,746,090
13	$678,834	$7,354,032	$281,958,473
14	$712,775	$7,721,733	$290,417,227
15	$748,414	$8,107,820	$299,129,744
16	$785,835	$8,513,211	$308,103,636
17	$825,127	$8,938,871	$317,346,745
18	$866,383	$9,385,815	$326,867,148
19	$909,702	$9,855,106	$336,673,162
20	$955,187	$10,347,861	$346,773,357
21	$1,002,947	$10,865,254	$357,176,558
22	$1,053,094	$11,408,517	$367,891,855
23	$1,105,749	$11,978,943	$378,928,610
24	$1,161,036	$12,577,890	$390,296,468
25	$1,219,088	$13,206,784	$402,005,362
26	$1,280,042	$13,867,123	$414,065,523
27	$1,344,044	$14,560,480	$426,487,489
28	$1,411,246	$15,288,504	$439,282,114
29	$1,481,809	$16,052,929	$452,460,577
30	$1,555,899	$16,855,575	$466,034,394
31	$1,633,694	$17,698,354	$480,015,426
32	$1,715,379	$18,583,272	$494,415,889
33	$1,801,148	$19,512,435	$509,248,366
34	$1,891,205	$20,488,057	$524,525,817
35	$1,985,766	$21,512,460	$540,261,591
36	$2,085,054	$22,588,083	$556,469,439
37	$2,189,306	$23,717,487	$573,163,522
38	$2,298,772	$24,903,361	$590,358,428
39	$2,413,710	$26,148,530	$608,069,181
40	$2,534,396	$27,455,956	$626,311,256
41	$2,661,116	$28,828,754	$645,100,594
42	$2,794,172	$30,270,191	$664,453,612
43	$2,933,880	$31,783,701	$684,387,220
44	$3,080,574	$33,372,886	$704,918,837
45	$3,234,603	$35,041,530	$726,066,402

46	$3,396,333	$36,793,607	$747,848,394
47	$3,566,150	$38,633,287	$770,283,845
48	$3,744,457	$40,564,952	$793,392,361
49	$3,931,680	$42,593,199	$817,194,132
50	$4,128,264	$44,722,859	$841,709,956
Total Present Value	**$79,493,542**	**$861,180,042**	

Chart 1 – Replacement Value vs. Annual Capital Improvement Investments



The proposed Capital Improvement Plan is a necessary, data-driven strategy to protect a $192 million public asset and to ensure the long-term sustainability of the City's Water System. A commitment to an annual reinvestment at the $3.9 million level reflects a responsible stewardship of public resources and aligns with modern utility asset management practices.

SECTION 6C: DEBT SERVICE

The Water System currently has long-term debt associated with a Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) Revolving Loan, which carries a 3.45% interest rate with principal payments occurring in May of each fiscal year.

The annual principal and interest payment for the LDH Revolving Loan totals approximately $613,000 per year.

SECTION 6D: REVENUES

Water system revenue for the most recent three (3) fiscal years is shown in the attached table.

WATER SYSTEM REVENUE FY 2022-2024[1]

Table 20 – Water System Revenue FY 2022-2024

Revenue Type	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	TOTAL
Residential	$4,236,032	$3,801,234	$5,279,806	$13,317,071
Commercial	$2,170,192	$2,378,191	$2,526,712	$7,075,095
Penalties	$766,618	$192,695	$907,246	$1,866,559
Tap Fees	$22,695	$8,850	$33,895	$65,440
Meters	$41,720	$69,730	$50,730	$162,180
Fire Hydrants	$96,400	$96,800	$95,400	$288,600
Water Tower Space	$30,716	$30,518	$32,842	$94,076
Other	$4,710	$7,535	$10,713	$22,958
Total Revenue	**$7,369,083**	**$6,585,552**	**$8,937,346**	**$22,891,980**
Average Annual Revenue				$7,630,660

[1] Based on reports provided by the City of Alexandria Utility Department

As shown in the tables below, for the prior 3 fiscal years Water System Revenue has averaged $7,630,660 annually, while Water System Expenses have averaged $6,392,791. This results in an average annual surplus of $1,237,869.

Note that this surplus does not include the expenses related to the financial support for meter readings, billings, financial management, principal and interest for existing debt, etc.; nor does it include transfers to the General Fund (5% of revenue). It should also be noted that the surplus does not account for the need to significantly increase the Capital Improvements budget. To maintain system integrity approximately $3.9 million per year should be budgeted to a Capital Improvement Plan, and increased at a rate of 5% per year, needs to be accommodated in any proposed rates restructuring.

Table 21 – Monthly Service and Volume Charges FY 2022-2024

Monthly Service and Volume Charges	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	Total	%
Residential	$4,236,031	$3,801,233	$5,279,805	$13,317,071	65%
Commercial	$2,170,191	$2,378,191	$2,526,712	$7,075,095	35%

SECTION 6E: WATER QUALITY REPORT

The City of Alexandria Water Department is regulated by the Evironmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH). The EPA enforces regulations under the Safe Drinking Water Act (SWDA) which sets standards for water quality and requires water systems to report water quality results to the public. LDH handles the local enforcement of provisions of the SWDA.

The City of Alexandria annually issues a report on water quality monitoring through issuance of a Consumer Confidence Report (CCR). This report is also known as a Water Quality Report. The report summarizes water quality including detected contaminants, whether the system meets required standards and potential health effects of contaminants.

A copy of the 2023 CCR as issued by the City is attached as Appendix D.

SECTION 6F: FIRE INSURANCE RATING AND WATER SYSTEM

The City of Alexandria maintains a Class II fire rating from the Property Insurance Association of Louisiana (PIAL). This rating is among the highest rated communities in the state for fire protection. This rating significantly benefits residents and businesses by contributing to lower property insurance premiums.

A key factor in achieving and maintaining this rating is the condition and performance of the City's Water System, particularly its storage capacity, distribution reliability, and fire flow availability.

According to the PIAL grading schedule, the water supply system accounts for approximately 40% of the total score used to determine a community's fire protection classification. This underscores the critical role that adequate water storage, pressure, flow, and infrastructure maintenance play in securing Alexandria's high rating. Adequate storage ensures that sufficient volumes are available during emergency situations, while well-maintained infrastructure and properly sized mains support the high flow demands required for firefighting.

The recommended Capital Improvement Program of funding proposed herein is an investment in its water system and directly supports maintain a favorable PIAL rating and enhances public safety and insurability across the community.

SECTION 6G: LDH ANNUAL WATER GRADE

LDH reviews and rates water systems in the state. The rating covers water quality; financial stability; operations and maintenance; customer satisfaction; etc. Water systems receive a grade ranging from “A” to “F”. The Alexandria Water System for 2024 received a grade of “A”.

A copy of the 2024 Water Grade as issued by LDH is attached as Appendix E.

SECTION 6E: GIS MAPPING

The City Water Department maintains hundreds of drawings of the water system; indicating locations of water mains, relocation of water mains, booster pump stations, tanks, etc. These drawings are not available in digital format.

The City has initiated an effort to digitalize the mapping records.

The ultimate goal would be for all water mains and water system infrastructure to be located on a georeferenced mapping system in a geographic information system (GIS) format. This type of mapping system requires several years of scanning and digitizing of the mapping data. Further enhancements would include actual field survey locations of system assets such as valve, fire hydrants and meter locations.

A GIS mapping system requires ongoing maintenance and upgrades as well as significate investment in software and hardware.

The Capital improvement budget would include funding for implementation of a GIS mapping system of the water system to ensure long term operational efficiencies of the system.

APPENDICES

Appendix A: Drawings Indicated General Limits of Water Distribution and Production System

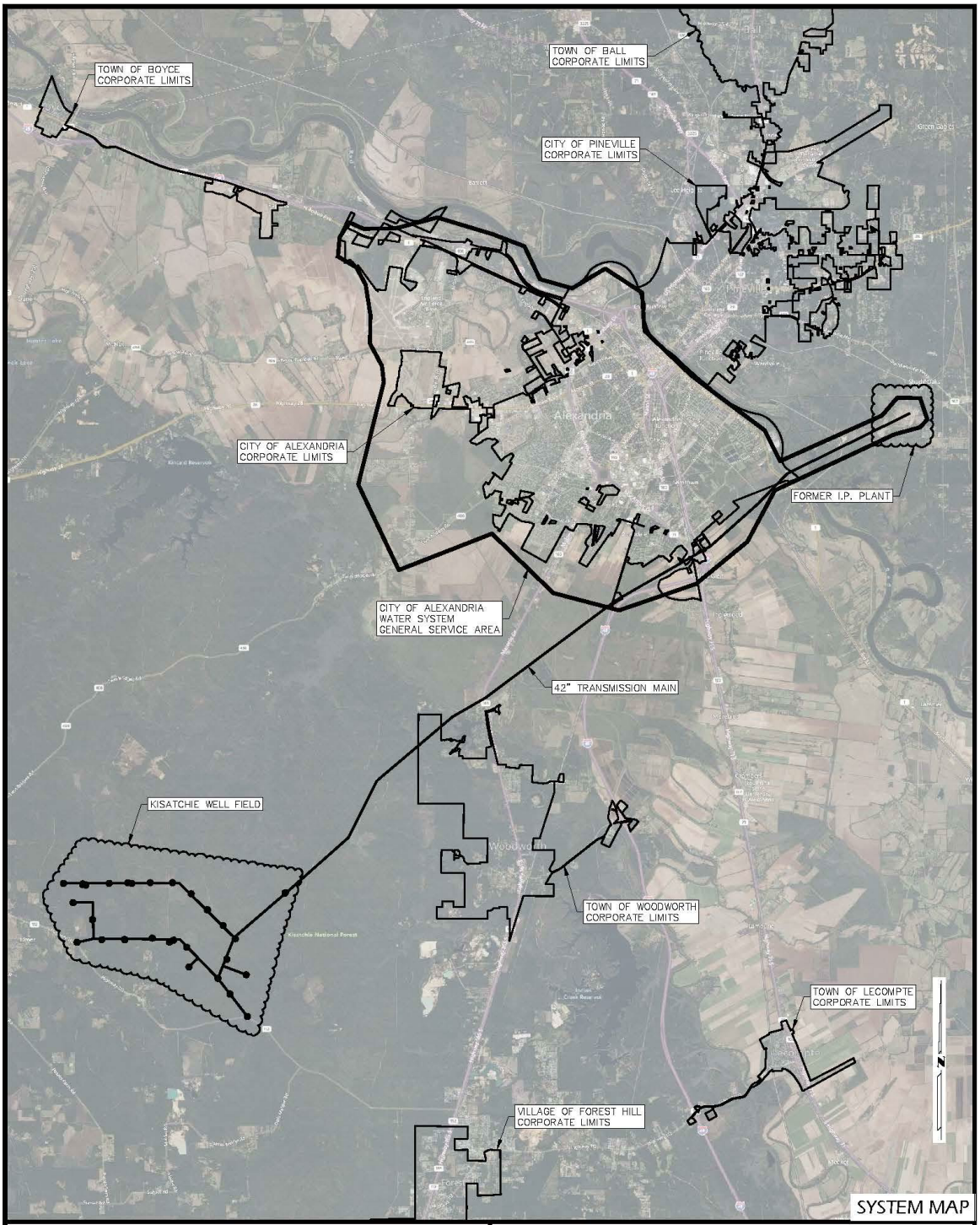
Appendix B: Current Water Rate Ordinance

Appendix C: Proposed Water Rate Ordinance

Appendix D: Consumer Confidence Report for 2023

Appendix E: LDH 2024 Water Grade Report

APPENDIX A: DRAWINGS INDICATED GENERAL LIMITS OF WATER DISTRIBUTION AND PRODUCTION SYSTEM


TOWN OF BOYCE
CORPORATE LIMITS
TOWN OF BALL
CORPORATE LIMITS
CITY OF PINEVILLE
CORPORATE LIMITS
CITY OF ALEXANDRIA
CORPORATE LIMITS
FORMER I.P. PLANT
CITY OF ALEXANDRIA
WATER SYSTEM
GENERAL SERVICE AREA
42" TRANSMISSION MAIN
KISATCHIE WELL FIELD
TOWN OF WOODWORTH
CORPORATE LIMITS
TOWN OF LECOMPTE
CORPORATE LIMITS
VILLAGE OF FOREST HILL
CORPORATE LIMITS
N
SYSTEM MAP
PAN AMERICAN ENGINEERS, LLC
1717 JACKSON STREET (71301)
P.O. BOX 8569 (71306)
ALEXANDRIA, LA.
CITY OF ALEXANDRIA
WATER SYSTEM RATE STUDY
SCALE: 1" = 15,000'
DATE: 5/2024
JOB NO. 13437
PRINTED: 5/27/2025 7:32 AM
FILE PATH: M:\13437 – ALEXANDRIA – ALEXANDRIA WATER RATE STUDY FY 2025\DESIGN\SKETCHES\13437 – Water System Service Area.dwg

APPENDIX B: CURRENT WATER RATE ORDINANCE

ARTICLE II. WATER[1]

Sec. 26-20. Definitions.

As used in this article, and elsewhere in this Code, the following terms shall have the respective meanings ascribed to them:

Approach main. A main which brings water service and/or circulation of water to the perimeter of a property or the projection thereof across roadways abutting said property.

Border main. A main that abuts the perimeter of the property of the developer.

City council. The City of Alexandria, a municipal corporation organized under the laws of the State of Louisiana and domiciled in the Parish of Rapides in said state.

Customer account deposit. The advanced deposit, without interest, of money in an amount determined by the council to be sufficient to insure payment of final bills. The money shall be refundable to the depositor or his assigns only upon termination of service and payment of all outstanding accounts.

Customer classifications:

(1) Single customer means an applicant for extension of facilities to supply domestic, commercial and fire protection water service for one property [parcel] or lot, for a single-family dwelling or a multiple family dwelling, a commercial building or other establishment, whether existing or to be erected, or a group of existing establishments requesting water service through a committee of not more than five (5) persons authorized to negotiate for service and to collect and deposit funds.

(2) Developer customer means an applicant for extension of facilities to supply domestic, commercial and fire protection water service for the development of platted subdivisions, a group or groups of platted or resubdivided lots, land tracts, etc., upon which more than one residential, commercial or industrial establishment is to be erected.

Extension deposit. Payment of the unit price per lineal foot at the time of installation of main extension necessary to make water service for domestic, commercial and fire protection uses available to a single customer's property.

Frontage. That side of the single customer's or developer's property along which a main is located. Such location shall be determined for the convenience and economy of the system, unless otherwise required by the sanitary code of the State of Louisiana or the City of Alexandria.

Inadequate main. An existing main which, in the council's opinion is not adequate to supply additional water services. Such main may be replaced at the council's option or paralleled whenever necessary to provide adequate or reliable service.

On-site main. A main to provide service within the perimeter of a property or along abutting roadways, alleys and/or utility easements.

Oversize main. A main which the system's master plan requires or the council elects to construct, of larger diameter than that required to provide service to and within the property of the customer.

[1]Cross reference(s)—Health and sanitation, Ch. 13.

Parallel main. A main installed parallel to an inadequate main and shall extend from the nearest existing adequate main or mains to a point where such inadequate main meets the customer's required approach main extension. A parallel main shall be of such size as is, in the council's opinion, required to supplement the supply available from the inadequate main, whereby the combined flow can supply the water necessary, according to the water department criteria, to serve the requirements of the customer's property.

Replacement main. A main which replaces an existing inadequate main with one which, in the council's opinion, is adequate to supply the customer's requirements. The replacement main shall extend from the nearest existing adequate main or mains to a point where such inadequate main meets the customer's required main extension.

Service line. A pipe, extending from a water main abutting the property of a customer to the approximate property line, equipped with a corporation valve and curb valve, meter, meter box. Service line connection shall be installed by the council for a customer's property upon his compliance with following:

(1) Execution of contract for water service if applicable;

(2) Payment of service line installation (meter and tap) charges;

(3) Payment of customer account deposit.

The service line installation charge shall depend upon the size of service line and meter installation as determined by the council to be necessary to serve the requirements within the property of the customer in accordance with the other provisions of this code.

(Code 1956, § 27-2.1; Ord. No. 48-1980, § 1(27-2.1), 3-18-1980)

Sec. 26-21. Conditions for receiving water service.

(a) Any dwelling, business, commercial or industrial establishment, or subdivision existing prior to November 1, 1987, situated within the corporate limits of the city or adjacent to the existing city water system, shall receive water service upon compliance with all city codes, ordinances and the provisions hereinafter set forth.

(b) Beginning June 1, 1989, any new business, commercial or industrial establishment and any new subdivision, as defined under Chapter 24 of this Code, or extension of an existing subdivision shall receive water service upon compliance with all city codes, ordinances and provisions hereinafter set forth, upon receipt of:

(1) A petition, accepted by the city council, to annex the requested property into the corporate limits of the City of Alexandria; or

(2) A special exception to the preceding requirement granted by the city council.

(Code 1956, § 27-2; Ord. No. 48-1980, § 1(27-2), 3-18-1980; Ord. No. 205-1987, § 1, 10-6-1987; Ord. No. 69-1989, § 2, 4-18-1989)

Sec. 26-22. Water meter and tap charges—Schedule.

Charges for installation of water meters and taps shall be paid by the property owner according to the following schedule:

Inside city limits:

(1) ¾″ meter only$60.00

(2) 1″ meter only95.00

(3) 1½″ meter only225.00

(4) ¾″ tap and meter500.00

(5) 1″ tap and meter575.00

(6) 1 ½″ tap and meter950.00

(7) 2″ tap and meter1,500.00

(8) 3″ tap and meter3,700.00

(9) 6″ fire service, tap only300.00

(10) Trenchless installation (additional charge)100.00

(11) Irrigation meter (additional charge)15.00

Outside city limits:

(1) ¾″ meter only$235.00

(2) 1″ meter only270.00

(3) 1½″ meter only400.00

(4) ¾″ tap and meter675.00

(5) 1″ tap and meter750.00

(6) 1½″ tap and meter1,125.00

(7) 2″ tap and meter1,675.00

(8) 3″ tap and meter3,875.00

(9) 6″ fire service, tap only475.00

(10) Trenchless installation (additional charge)150.00

(11) Irrigation meter (additional charge)25.00

(Code 1956, § 27-1.4; Ord. No. 48-1980, § 1(27-1.4), 3-18-1980; Ord. No. 19-1987, § 2, 2-10-1987; Ord. No. 93-1995, § 1, 4-25-1995; Ord. No. 147-2011, § I, 9-20-2011; Ord. No. 125-2012, § I, 6-12-2012)

Sec. 26-23. Reserved.

Editor's note(s)—Ord. No. 93-1995, adopted Apr. 25, 1995, deleted § 26-23. Prior to deletion, § 26-23 pertained to water meter and tap charge exchange and refunds as derived from the Code of 1956, § 27-1.3; and Ord. No. 48-1980, adopted Mar. 18, 1980.

Sec. 26-24. Rates for water service.

(a) Service under this schedule is available for water use to all consumers located inside the city limits and to customers located adjacent to existing water mains outside the city limits. The owner, occupant, or tenant of each lot or parcel which is connected with the water system shall pay for the use thereof and for the services and facilities furnished by the system. The rates, fees, and charges for water service furnished by the city's water system shall be based upon the quantity of water determined by metering, furnished to each customer's premises each month. Service will be furnished in accordance with the following stipulations and in accordance with the city's general rules, terms and conditions.

(1) Residential, inside city limits:

Monthly rate	Beginning March 1, 2016	Beginning March 1, 2017	Beginning March 1, 2018
Customer service charge:			
1″ and smaller meter	$4.04	$4.41	$4.79
1½″ meter	16.16	17.65	19.15
2″ meter	21.85	22.91	23.96
Commodity charge:			
First 2,000 cubic feet, per Ccf	1.67	1.69	1.70
Next 6,000 cubic feet, per Ccf	1.79	1.80	1.82
Next 32,000 cubic feet, per Ccf	0.90	1.01	1.11
Over 40,000 cubic feet, per Ccf	0.69	0.77	0.84
Ccf = 100 cubic feet			

(2) Residential, outside city limits:

Monthly rate	Beginning March 1, 2016	Beginning March 1, 2017	Beginning March 1, 2018
Customer service charge:			
1″ and smaller meter	$6.73	$7.35	$7.98
1½″ meter	22.86	27.38	31.89
2″ meter	32.04	35.96	39.88
Commodity charge:			
First 2,000 cubic feet, per Ccf	2.22	2.24	2.27
Next 6,000 cubic feet, per Ccf	2.15	2.16	2.19
Next 32,000 cubic feet, per Ccf	1.19	1.33	1.48
Over 40,000 cubic feet, per Ccf	0.91	1.01	1.12
Ccf = 100 cubic feet			

(3) Commercial, inside city limits:

Monthly rate	Beginning March 1, 2016	Beginning March 1, 2017	Beginning March 1, 2018
Customer service charge:			
1″ and smaller meter	$4.04	$4.41	$4.79
1½″ meter	16.16	17.65	19.15
2″ meter	21.85	22.91	23.96
3″ meter	56.57	61.80	67.03
4″ meter	85.79	87.22	88.64
6″ meter	174.79	178.43	182.07
8″ meter	269.41	294.31	319.22
12″ meter	370.00	395.00	419.00
Commodity charge:			
First 2,000 cubic feet, per Ccf	1.67	1.69	1.70
Next 6,000 cubic feet, per Ccf	1.79	1.80	1.82
Next 32,000 cubic feet, per Ccf	0.90	1.01	1.11
Over 40,000 cubic feet, per Ccf	0.69	0.77	0.84
Ccf = 100 cubic feet			

(4) Commercial, outside city limits:

Monthly rate	Beginning March 1, 2016	Beginning March 1, 2017	Beginning March 1, 2018
Customer service charge:			
1″ and smaller meter	$6.73	$7.35	$7.98
1½″ meter	22.86	27.38	31.89
2″ meter	32.04	35.96	39.88
3″ meter	82.02	96.80	111.59
4″ meter	124.18	135.88	147.57
6″ meter	252.64	277.89	303.13
8″ meter	393.95	462.70	531.46
12″ meter	519.00	588.00	656.00
Commodity charge:			
First 2,000 cubic feet, per Ccf	2.22	2.24	2.27
Next 6,000 cubic feet, per Ccf	2.15	2.16	2.19
Next 32,000 cubic feet, per Ccf	1.19	1.33	1.48
Over 40,000 cubic feet, per Ccf	0.91	1.01	1.12
Ccf = 100 cubic feet			

(b) Use of services. Service under this schedule is available for all consumers. Each dwelling unit shall, under ordinary conditions, be metered and billed separately; however, the city reserves the right, where more than one (1) family or dwelling unit receives service through a single meter, to multiply the customer service charge and the quantity of water use in each rate step by the number of families or dwelling units serviced through a single meter.

(c) Reserved.

(d) Infrastructure renewal assessment. There is imposed for water use to all consumers located inside the city limits and to customers located adjacent to existing water mains outside the city limits, a monthly water service infrastructure renewal assessment

Inside city limits	Outside city limits
$0.06673/Ccf	$0.08808/Ccf

Ccf = 100 cubic feet

(Code 1956, §§ 27-1, 27-1.1; Ord. No. 48-1980, § 1(27-1, 27-1.1), 3-18-1980; Ord. No. 109-1983, § 9, 8-2-1983; Ord. No. 58-1986, § 4, 4-8-1986; Ord. No. 195-2003, § I, 6-24-2003; Ord. No. 59-2012, § X, 4-3-2012; Ord. No. 202-2013, §§ I, II, 11-12-2013; Ord. No. 203-2015, § II, 12-15-2015)

Sec. 26-25. Other charges, terms and conditions.

(a) All water service shall be billed and paid for under applicable rate schedules provided for water service. No "free" service shall be provided except, at the option of the mayor, to the city departments and divisions, offices and agencies.

(b) Minimum monthly charge. The minimum monthly charge shall be the customer service charge.

(c) Delayed payment. The total NET amount based upon the NET rates specified herein is due when the bill is received. After fifteen (15) days from the date of the bill, the GROSS amount is due. The GROSS amount of the bill will be determined by adding ten (10) per cent of the NET amount.

(d) In the event service is disconnected because of nonpayment of bills, the utility shall collect as a reconnection charge the sum of such minimum bills as would have accrued during the period of disconnection. The minimum reconnection charge shall be twenty-two dollars ($22.00).

(e) When a customer's service is initially connected or reconnected after a service disconnection at the same premises, a charge of ten dollars ($10.00) shall be made for connecting service. The connection charge shall be added to the customer's succeeding water bill.

(f) In the event service interruptions occur on the customer's premises and when the utility's service man determines such interruption to be caused by the customer's water facilities, a service charge of fifty dollars ($50.00) shall be made for each service call. The service charge shall be added to the customer's succeeding water bill.

(g) In the event of emergency cut-offs the customer will be charged ten dollars ($10.00). After regular hours (7:00—3:30, Monday—Friday) and on holidays the customer will be charged forty five dollars ($45.00).

(h) The city shall require the customer to make and maintain a cash deposit as security for payment of bills. The amount of such deposit shall be determined by the city but shall not be less than fifteen dollars ($15.00) for residential customers and not less than fifty ($50.00) for commercial customers and may in the discretion of the city be an amount equal to two (2) times the estimated or maximum monthly bill for a previous or similarly situated customer. The amount of the deposit, without interest, will be refunded to the customer upon final discontinuance of service and after all indebtedness of the customer to the city has been paid. The city shall have the right to apply the deposit at any time to satisfy an indebtedness to the city as result of utility service.

(i) At the request of the customer, a water meter may be removed from service and tested for accuracy. If the meter is found to register at the allowable percentage as set forth in AWWA Standard C705, Table I, for the size meter tested, the city shall adjust past bills to compensate for the margin of inaccuracy. Adjustments shall cover the entire period of inaccurate registration if the length of time of such period can be determined; otherwise, adjustments shall cover such period as may be mutually agreeable to the customer and the city. In no event, however, shall the adjustment cover a period of more than six (6) months.

If, after the testing, registration proves to be within the allowable limits, the requesting customer shall be liable for cost as of meter removal, testing and reinstallation at a rate of fifty dollars ($50.00).

(j) There shall be a fee charged of twenty five ($25.00) dollars on all checks made payable to the city and found to have insufficient funds which fee shall be collected or added to the next utility bill.

(Code 1956, § 27-1; Ord. No. 48-1980, § 1(27-1.2), 3-18-1980; Ord. No. 129-1981, §§ 1—5, 8-4-1981; Ord. No. 36-1983, 3-29-1983; Ord. No. 58-1986, § 4, 4-8-1986; Ord. No. 81-1991, § 14, 4-26-1991; Ord. No. 93-1995, § 1, 4-25-1995; Ord. No. 195-2003, § II, 6-24-2003)

Sec. 26-26. Tampering with fire hydrants and other prohibited acts relating to water system.

(a) Tampering with fire hydrants. No person other than an authorized employee of the city and for the purpose of said employee in the performance of his duty, shall unscrew and remove any cap from any fire hydrant or open or close or tamper with any fire hydrant or cause same to be done unless specific approval is obtained from the office of the utilities division in writing.

(b) Mutilating fire hydrant. No person shall introduce any foreign object into any fire hydrant, or mutilate or destroy or remove any part hereof, or cause same to be done.

(c) Opening fire hydrant. No person shall open, close or tamper with any fire hydrant with any tool or appliance other than a special five (5) sided wrench which fits the operating nut of such hydrant, or cause same to be done.

(d) Waste of fire hydrant water. No person shall leave any fire hydrant open or partly open, or cause same to be done, thereby wasting water, unless he is an employee of the utilities division for the purpose of said division and acting under instruction of the superintendent.

(e) Tampering with valves, cocks, etc. No person other than an employee of the utilities division, or carrying a permit from an authorized agent thereof, shall open, close or tamper with any valves whatsoever on any main or street pipeline or corporation cocks, or curb cocks laid or operated by the utilities division, or cause same to be done. It shall be unlawful for any person not an authorized employee of the city, to cut on or off, or in any way disturb or damage or interfere with any other property belonging to the city and used for the purpose of furnishing, regulating or measuring water supply; provided, a licensed plumber is authorized to cut off water for the purpose of making repairs where a delay is liable to result in injury to the property holder, or to cause an excessive waste of water. In such cases written notice shall be sent to the city utilities division office within twelve (12) hours by the plumber, specifying the reasons for such action.

(f) Taps, meter and service pipes. No person except a tapper employed by the city shall under any circumstances tap water mains of the city. The running of the service pipe from the main to the existing or proposed curblines, and the installation of the stop cock and the box and meter is also to be done by regular employees of the city except in cases where it may be found expedient to grant plumbers special written permission to do same.

(g) Use of water for construction purposes. Any contractor may have water furnished for use in building construction upon application and payment of proper fees to the city. In no case shall a contractor tamper with the curb stop cock installed by the city unless by written permit from the city. The contractor must notify the city when the work is completed, and upon said notification the city will cause the water to be cut off by a properly authorized agent of the city.

(Code 1956, §§ 18-15, 22-3.2(a)—(g))

Cross reference(s)—Diversion of utility product, § 26-8; damage to property generally, § 15-10; damage to sewer works, § 26-52.

Secs. 26-27—26-29. Reserved.

APPENDIX C: PROPOSED WATER RATE ORDINANCE

A draft Ordinance for the proposed water rates is shown below.

City of Alexandria Water Rate Ordinance

This document serves as an amendment to the City of Alexandria Code of Ordinances regarding water utility rates. It reflects changes to the customer charge, replaces tiered volume charges with a single flat rate, and removes the infrastructure renewal assessment. It also establishes a provision for annual rate adjustments based on the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U).

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING AND RE-ENACTING THE FOLLOWING SECTIONS OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES: CHAPTER 26 , UTILITIES AND SERVICES ARTICLE II . SECTION 26-24, RATES FOR WATER SERVICE; AND OTHERWISE PROVIDING FOR ALL MATTERS RELATED THERETO.

WHEREAS, A comprehensive study of all aspects of the City of Alexandria's Water Utility System, has been performed and includes recommendations for rate reform;

NOW THEREFORE:

Section I.

Be it ordained that the Alexandria City Council hereby determines to enact rate reform effective _____, 2025, and as provided herein, in part for the reasons provided by the recitals herein and as more fully stated in the reports related to rate reform, including but not limited to the FY 2025 Water System Rate Study dated May 2025.

Section II.

Be it further ordained that the Alexandria City Council hereby amends, reenacts, modifies and implements its new utility services rate structures and the following sections of the Code of Ordinances Chapter 26, Utilities And Services Article II. Sections 26-24, Rates for Water Service; are amended and reenacted to read as follows:

Section 26-24. Service Rates – Schedules – Monthly Rates

(1) Residential, inside city limits:

Monthly rate	CCF	Per 1,000 Gallons
Customer service charge:		
1″ and smaller meter	$12.00	
1½″ meter	$35.00	
2″ meter	$40.00	
Commodity charge:		
per Ccf (per 1,000 gallons)	$2.32	$3.10
Ccf = 100 cubic feet		

(2) Residential, outside city limits:

Monthly rate	CCF	Per 1,000 Gallons
Customer service charge:		
1″ and smaller meter	$16.00	
1½″ meter	$45.00	
2″ meter	$50.00	
Commodity charge:		
per Ccf (per 1,000 gallons)	$3.07	$4.10
Ccf = 100 cubic feet		

(3) Commercial, inside city limits:

Monthly rate	CCF	Per 1,000 Gallons
Customer service charge:		
1″ and smaller meter	$25.00	
1½″ meter	$40.00	
2″ meter	$50.00	
3″ meter	$80.00	
4″ meter	$120.00	
6″ meter	$225.00	
8″ meter	$375.00	
12″ meter	$570.00	
Commodity charge:		
First 8,000 Ccf per Ccf (First 59,843 gallons per 1,000 gallons)	$2.32	$3.10
Over 8,000 Ccf per Ccf (Over 59,843 gallons per 1,000 gallons)	$1.31	$1.75
Ccf = 100 cubic feet		

(4) Commercial, outside city limits:

Monthly rate	CCF	Per 1,000 Gallons
Customer service charge:		
1″ and smaller meter	$30.00	
1½″ meter	$50.00	
2″ meter	$60.00	
3″ meter	$120.00	
4″ meter	$180.00	
6″ meter	$375.00	
8″ meter	$575.00	
12″ meter	$750.00	
Commodity charge:		
First 8,000 Ccf per Ccf (First 59,843 gallons per 1,000 gallons)	$3.07	$4.10
Over 8,000 Ccf per Ccf (Over 59,843 gallons per 1,000 gallons)	$1.68	$2.25
Ccf = 100 cubic feet		

(c) *Automatic Adjustment Based on CPI-U*

Beginning in February 2026 and each February thereafter, the Customer Service Charge and Commodity Charges established in this ordinance shall be automatically adjusted by the percentage change in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U), published by the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

1. *The adjustment shall reflect the 12-month percentage change in the CPI-U for the calendar year ending the previous December.*

2. *If the CPI-U increases, the charges shall be increased by the same percentage, rounded to the nearest cent.*

3. *If the CPI-U decreases, the charges shall be reduced accordingly.*

4. *The Director of Utilities shall publish the adjusted rates annually no later than February 15.*

5. *The Director of Utilities shall issue a memorandum to the City Council stating the adjusted rates and the applicable CPI-U data supporting the adjustment, no later than February 15th of each year.*

(d) *Infrastructure renewal assessment. *This assessment is hereby repealed in its entirety.**

APPENDIX D: CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT FOR 2023

CITY OF ALEXANDRIA WATER SYSTEM

Public Water Supply ID: LA1079001

Consumer Confidence Report

2024 CCR

Additional Information and Electronic Copies can be found at www.ldh.la.gov/ccr

What you need to do:

Review base report (numbered pages) for errors. If you are a surface water system, you must insert the turbidity data.

Distribute completed report to your customers as outlined on the CCR Certification of Distribution Form no later than June 30, 2025.

A completed CCR Certification of Distribution Form including a copy of the final CCR report shall be submitted to the State at the address provided on the form no later than September 30, 2025.

If submitting CCR Electronically by posting on a website, be aware of LAC 51:XII.403.C – Community water systems shall include their final letter grade and score in their annual Consumer Confidence Report (a.k.a. Annual Water Quality Report) that is posted on the water system website. A statement like below must be added to the CCR notifying consumers of the water system grade.

Our water system grade is a "fill in grade here". Our water system report card can be found at "insert water system website link".

UCMR5-Water systems are required to distribute results for the unregulated contaminant monitoring rule (UCMR). If you have collected samples and received results, you may insert that data into the CCR to satisfy the notification requirement. The average of all results and the range of results at with the contaminant was detected.

Notes:
This page is not part of your CCR; it is only the instruction page. The pages that are numbered in the upper right hand corner are the report pages.

The Water We Drink

CITY OF ALEXANDRIA WATER SYSTEM

Public Water Supply ID: LA1079001

We are pleased to present to you the Annual Water Quality Report for the year 2024. This report is designed to inform you about the quality of your water and services we deliver to you every day (Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua potable. Tradúzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien). Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. We want you to understand the efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process and protect our water resources. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water.

Our water source(s) are listed below:

Source Name	Source Water Type
HWY 28 NEW WELL	Ground water
WELL R 1202	Ground water
WELL R 1209	Ground water
WELL R 1210	Ground water
WELL R 1292	Ground water
WELL R 1329	Ground water
WELL R 1343	Ground water
WELL R 1357	Ground water
WELL R 1406	Ground water
WELL R 1430	Ground water
WELL R 1431	Ground water
WELL R 1432	Ground water
WELL R 1475	Ground water
WELL R 1542	Ground water
WELL R 1543	Ground water
WELL R 1566	Ground water
WELL R 1639	Ground water
WELL R 1642	Ground water
WELL R 1643	Ground water
WELL R 1660	Ground water
WELL R 425	Ground water
WELL R 464	Ground water
WELL R 612	Ground water
WELL R 748	Ground water
WELL R 837	Ground water
WELL R 875	Ground water
WELL R 905	Ground water
WELL R 906	Ground water

WELL R 907	Ground water
WELL R 909	Ground water
WELL R 910	Ground water
WELL R 912	Ground water
WELL R 914	Ground water
WELL R 915	Ground water
WELL R 916	Ground water
WELL R 918	Ground water
WELL R 920	Ground water
WELL R 921	Ground water
WELL R 922	Ground water
WELL R 923	Ground water
WELL R 924	Ground water
WELL R 925	Ground water
WELL R 927	Ground water
WELL R 928	Ground water
WELL R 929	Ground water
WELL R 930	Ground water
WELL R 932	Ground water
WELL R 933	Ground water
WELL R 936	Ground water
WELL R 937	Ground water

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally-occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

Microbial Contaminants - such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.

Inorganic Contaminants - such as salts and metals, which can be naturally-occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial, or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.

Pesticides and Herbicides - which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses.

Organic Chemical Contaminants – including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.

Radioactive Contaminants – which can be naturally-occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

A Source Water Assessment Plan (SWAP) is now available from our office. This plan is an assessment of a delineated area around our listed sources through which contaminants, if present, could migrate and reach our source water. It also includes an inventory of potential sources of contamination within the delineated area, and a determination of the water supply's susceptibility to contamination by the identified potential sources. According to the Source Water Assessment Plan, our water system had a susceptibility rating of 'MEDIUM'. If you would like to review the Source Water Assessment Plan, please feel free to contact our office.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health. We want our valued customers to be informed about their water utility. If you have any questions about this report, want to attend any scheduled meetings, or simply want to learn more about your drinking water, please contact JACQUES ROY at 318-449-5000.

There is no safe level of lead in drinking water. Exposure to lead in drinking water can cause serious health effects in all age groups, especially pregnant people, infants (both formula-fed and breastfed), and young children. Some of the health effects to infants and children include decreases in IQ and attention span. Lead exposure can also result in new or worsened learning and behavior problems. The children of persons who are exposed to lead before or during pregnancy may be at increased risk of these harmful health effects. Adults have increased risks of heart disease, high blood pressure, kidney or nervous system problems. Contact your health care provider for more information about your risks.

The Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals - Office of Public Health routinely monitors for constituents in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. The tables that follow show the results of our monitoring during the period of January 1st to December 31st, 2024. Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk.

In the tables below, you will find many terms and abbreviations you might not be familiar with. To help you better understand these terms, we've provided the following definitions:

Parts per million (ppm) or Milligrams per liter (mg/L) – one part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in $10,000.

Parts per billion (ppb) or Micrograms per liter (ug/L) – one part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in $10,000,000.

Picocuries per liter (pCi/L) – picocuries per liter is a measure of the radioactivity in water.

Treatment Technique (TT) – an enforceable procedure or level of technological performance which public water systems must follow to ensure control of a contaminant.

Action level (AL) – the concentration of a contaminant that, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.

Maximum contaminant level (MCL) – the "Maximum Allowed" MCL is the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCL's are set as close to the MCLG's as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

Maximum contaminant level goal (MCLG) – the "Goal" is the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or

expected risk to human health. MCLG's allow for a margin of safety.

Maximum residual disinfectant level (MRDL) – The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

Maximum residual disinfectant level goal (MRDLG) – The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

Level 1 assessment – A study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system.

Level 2 Assessment – A very detailed study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why an E. coli MCL violation has occurred and/or why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system on multiple occasions.

Our water system tested a minimum of 70 sample(s) per month in accordance with the Total Coliform Rule for microbiological contaminants. With the microbiological samples collected, the water system collects disinfectant residuals to ensure control of microbial growth.

Disinfectant	Date	HighestRAA	Unit	Range	MRDL	MRDLG	Typical Source
CHLORINE	2024	1.3	ppm	0.0 - 2.57	4	4	Water additive used to control microbes

In the tables below, we have shown the regulated contaminants that were detected. Chemical Sampling of our drinking water may not be required on an annual basis; therefore, information provided in this table refers back to the latest year of chemical sampling results.

The State of Louisiana regularly monitors source water per State and Federal Regulations. Treated water samples are monitored to further evaluate compliance.

Source Water Regulated Contaminants	Collection Date	Highest Value	Range	Unit	MCL	MCLG	Typical Source
ARSENIC	3/3/2024	7	0 - 7	ppb	10	0	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
BHC-GAMMA	12/16/2024	7.4	0 - 7.4	ppt	200	200	Runoff/leaching from insecticide used on cattle, lumber, gardens
FLUORIDE	6/16/2024	1.6	0 - 1.6	ppm	4	4	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
NITRATE-NITRITE	3/26/2019	0.23	0 - 0.23	ppm	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
PENTACHLOROPHENOL	2/18/2024	0.022	0 - 0.022	ppb	1	0	Discharge from wood preserving factories

Treated Water Regulated Contaminants	Collection Date	Highest Value	Range	Unit	MCL	MCLG	Typical Source

FLUORIDE	8/18/2024	2.5	1.3 - 2.5	ppm	4	4	Natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth.
NITRATE-NITRITE	6/16/2024	0.2	0 - 0.2	ppm	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits

Source Water Radiological Contaminants	Collection Date	Highest Value	Range	Unit	MCL	MCLG	Typical Source
COMBINED RADIUM (-226 & -228)	12/2/2024	1.922	0 - 1.922	pCi/l	5	0	Erosion of natural deposits
GROSS ALPHA PARTICLE ACTIVITY	6/16/2024	3.18	0 - 3.18	pCi/l	15	0	Erosion of natural deposits
GROSS BETA PARTICLE ACTIVITY	6/16/2024	2.56	0 - 2.56	pCi/l	50	0	Decay of natural and man-made deposits.
RADIUM-226	12/2/2024	0.961	0 - 0.961	PCI/L	5	0	Erosion of natural deposits
RADIUM-228	12/2/2024	0.961	0 - 0.961	PCI/L	5	0	Erosion of natural deposits

Treated Water Radiological Contaminants	Collection Date	Highest Value	Range	Unit	MCL	MCLG	Typical Source
GROSS ALPHA PARTICLE ACTIVITY	11/13/2024	3.44	0 - 3.44	pCi/l	15	0	Erosion of natural deposits

Lead and Copper	Date	90TH Percentile	Range	Unit	AL	Sites Over AL	Typical Source
COPPER, FREE	2024	0.5	0 - 1.7	ppm	1.3	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives
LEAD	2024	1	0 - 6	ppb	15	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

Disinfection Byproducts	Sample Point	Period	Highest LRAA	Range	Unit	MCL	MCLG	Typical Source
TOTAL HALOACETIC ACIDS (HAA5)	145 ST ANDREWS	2024 - 2025	9	9.1	ppb	60	0	By-product of drinking water disinfection
TOTAL HALOACETIC ACIDS (HAA5)	2125 AIRBASE ROAD	2024 - 2025	9	8.7	ppb	60	0	By-product of drinking water disinfection
TTHM	145 ST ANDREWS	2024 - 2025	20	20.2 - 26.4	ppb	80	0	By-product of drinking water chlorination
TTHM	2125 AIRBASE ROAD	2024 - 2025	20	19.5	ppb	80	0	By-product of drinking water chlorination

Source Secondary Contaminants	Collection Date	Highest Value	Range	Unit	SMCL
ALUMINUM	3/3/2024	1.1	0 - 1.1	MG/L	0.2

CHLORIDE	6/16/2024	69	0 - 69	MG/L	250
HARDNESS, TOTAL (AS CACO3)	12/2/2024	14.1	3 - 14.1	MG/L	0
IRON	6/16/2024	5.09	0 - 5.09	MG/L	0.3
MANGANESE	6/16/2024	0.14	0 - 0.14	MG/L	0.05
PH	6/16/2024	8.21	5.09 - 8.21	PH	8.5
POTASSIUM	2/18/2024	2.1	0.9 - 2.1	MG/L	0
SILVER	12/2/2024	0.024	0 - 0.024	MG/L	0.1
SODIUM	2/18/2024	175	2.5 - 175	MG/L	0
SULFATE	12/2/2024	7	0 - 7	MG/L	250

Treated Secondary Contaminants	Collection Date	Highest Value	Range	Unit	SMCL
IRON	2/18/2024	0.18	0.02 - 0.18	MG/L	0.3
MANGANESE	6/16/2024	0.03	0 - 0.03	MG/L	0.05
POTASSIUM	7/10/2019	1640	1640	UG/L	0

++++++++++++++Environmental Protection Agency Required Health Effects Language++++++++++++++
Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800–426–4791).

Lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. CITY OF ALEXANDRIA WATER SYSTEM is responsible for providing high quality drinking water and removing lead pipes, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components in your home. You share the responsibility for protecting yourself and your family from the lead in your home plumbing. You can take responsibility by identifying and removing lead materials within your home plumbing and taking steps to reduce your family's risk. Before drinking tap water, flush your pipes for several minutes by running your tap, taking a shower, doing laundry or a load of dishes. You can also use a filter certified by an American National Standards Institute accredited certifier to reduce lead in drinking water. If you are concerned about lead in your water and wish to have your water tested, contact CITY OF ALEXANDRIA WATER SYSTEM and JACQUES ROY BUS Phone: 318-449-5000. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

Additional Required Health Effects Language:

Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially-harmful, bacteria may be present. Coliforms were found in more samples than allowed and this was a warning of potential problems.

This is an alert about your drinking water and a cosmetic dental problem that might affect children under nine (9) years of age. At low levels, fluoride can help prevent cavities, but children drinking water containing more than two (2) milligrams per liter (mg/L) of fluoride may develop cosmetic discoloration

of their permanent teeth (dental fluorosis). The drinking water provided by your community water system has a fluoride concentration greater than 2.0 mg/L. Dental fluorosis, in its moderate or severe forms, may result in a brown staining and/or pitting of the permanent teeth. This problem occurs only in developing teeth, before they erupt from the gums. Children under nine (9) should be provided with alternative sources of drinking water or water that has been treated to remove the fluoride to avoid the possibility of staining and pitting of their permanent teeth. You may also want to contact your dentist about proper use by young children of fluoride-containing products. Older children and adults may safely drink the water. Drinking water containing more than four (4) mg/L of fluoride (the maximum contaminant level for fluoride) can increase your risk of developing bone disease. Your drinking water does not contain more than four (4) mg/L of fluoride, but we are required to notify you when we discover that the fluoride levels in your drinking water exceed two (2) mg/L because of this cosmetic dental problem. For more information, please call at the phone number located under the heading "How might I become actively involved?" on page 1 of this report. Some home water treatment units are also available to remove fluoride from drinking water. To learn more about available home water treatment units, you may call NSF International at 1-877-8-NSF-HELP.

There are no additional required health effects violation notices.

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Thank you for allowing us to continue providing your family with clean, quality water this year. In order to maintain a safe and dependable water supply we sometimes need to make improvements that will benefit all of our customers.

We at the CITY OF ALEXANDRIA WATER SYSTEM work around the clock to provide top quality drinking water to every tap. We ask that all our customers help us protect and conserve our water sources, which are the heart of our community, our way of life, and our children's future. Additional information on the water system can be found at www.ldh.la.gov/watergrade. Please call our office if you have questions.

APPENDIX E: LDH 2024 WATER GRADE REPORT

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
Engineering Services

CITY OF ALEXANDRIA WATER SYSTEM

Parish: RAPIDES **PWSID: LA1079001**

2024 Water Grade

100 / 100 = 100%

A

Federal Water Quality	Points deducted for federal violations, which include Treatment Technique and Maximum Contaminant Level Violations, may pose a public health risk over an extended period of time. Max of 30 points	-0
State Water Quality	Points deducted for state violations, which include no water operator, inadequate water disinfection, and boil notices and water outages, may lead to other issues of concern if not resolved. Max of 10 points	-0
Financial Sustainability	Points deducted for lack of financial sustainability which can affect operations and maintenance of the water system. An effective water rate can provide for the repair, maintenance, and future replacement of infrastructure. Max of 10 points	-0
Operations & Maintenance	Points deducted for operation and maintenance deficiencies noted during water system inspections, which may affect the water quality being distributed to consumers. Max of 15 points	-0
Infrastructure	Points deducted for infrastructure deficiencies noted during water system inspections, which may lead to unsafe drinking water and/or water service disruption. Max of 20 points	-0
Customer Satisfaction	Points deducted for customer complaints received by the water system and/or the Louisiana Department of Health, which are confirmed to be a water quality or quantity issue in the water system. Max of 10 points	-10
Secondary Contaminants	Points deducted for levels of iron and/or manganese greater than the secondary maximum contaminant levels. These levels do not pose a health risk but may cause undesirable water quality issues. Max of 5 points	-0
BONUS	Points granted for having an asset management plan; a storage assessment and maintenance program; well assessment & maintenance program; participation in management training; or participation in a capacity development program. Max of 10 points	+10

www.ldh.la.gov/watergrade

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
Engineering Services

2024 Water Grade Details
CITY OF ALEXANDRIA WATER SYSTEM

Standard	Standard Maximum	Point Deductions	Detailed Assessment of Standards		System Deductions
Federal Water Quality	-30	5 each	Maximum contaminant level violations	0	- 0
		5 each	Treatment technique violations for Lead and Copper Rule	0	
		10	Is the system non-compliant with an administrative order?	No	
State Water Quality	-10	1 each	Chlorine violations	0	- 0
		5	Does the water system have an operator?	Yes	
		5 each	Water outages and/or boil notices	0	
Financial Sustainability	-10	5	Did the system submit an acceptable rate study or implement an adequate rate?	Yes	- 0
		5	Did the water system submit an acceptable audit?	Yes	
		10	Is the system under a fiscal administrator for poor financial management practices?	No	
		5	Are there other negative circumstances that affect fiscal control of the water system?	No	
Operations & Maintenance	-15	3 each	Unresolved significant deficiencies	0	- 0
Infrastructure	-20	5 each	Unresolved significant deficiencies	0	- 0
Customer Satisfaction	-10	1 each	Valid water complaints reported	10	- 10
		10	Did the system submit a water complaint log?	Yes	
Secondary Contaminants	-5	5	Manganese and/or Iron level(s) over the secondary maximum contaminant level(s)	No	- 0
Bonus	+10	5 each	Asset management plan, storage or well assessment & maintenance plan, participation in capacity development or management training	2	+ 10
				Total Deductions + Bonus	0
				Score	100 / 100 = 100%