Beginning with the November utility bill, the median residential utility customers will see a 6.0 percent increase in their combined water and sewer rates. The stormwater fee will increase 9 percent, or 69 cents per month – from $7.66 to $8.35. Rates for refuse, recycling and EMSAcare will stay the same.

A low usage customer’s water and sewer charges (3,000 gallons of water) will increase by $2.50 per month, or 8 cents a day – from $42.68 to $45.18. An average usage customer’s water and sewer charges (7,500 gallons of water) will increase by $5.29 per month, or 17 cents a day – from $85.69 to $90.98. A high usage customer’s water and sewer charges (12,000 gallons of water) will increase by $8.08 per month, or 26 cents a day – from $128.69 to $136.77.

The Tulsa Metropolitan Utility Authority (TMUA) and the Stormwater Drainage & Hazard Mitigation Advisory Board recommended the rate increases and the City Council approved them as part of the 2020 fiscal year budget process.

Water and sewer revenues fund operation, maintenance, rehabilitation and replacement of Tulsa’s water and sewer systems. In Fiscal Year 2019, the City of Tulsa’s two water treatment plants pumped 35.3 billion gallons through 2,363 miles of waterlines out to 143,646 connections serving 635,000 customers. Serving those same connections and customers, Tulsa’s approximately 2,000 miles of sanitary sewer lines lead to four wastewater treatment plants that treated 21.6 billion gallons in Fiscal Year 2019.

The City of Tulsa’s stormwater fee pays for maintenance of the city’s stormwater drainage system, which includes 68,532 manholes, inlets and structures; 1,182 miles of storm sewer lines; 978 miles of roadside ditches; 713 bridges and culverts; 66 miles of improved creek channels; 123 detention ponds; and 2,370 acres of mowing and vegetation control.

The fee also funds capital projects to increase storm sewer capacity, stabilize creek banks, and control erosion. The stormwater fee was initiated in 1986, to fund the City of Tulsa’s stormwater management program.
### Trap the Grease
**Avoid Costly Home Plumbing Bills**

Fats, oils, and grease aren’t just bad for your arteries; they are bad for the sewers, too. When food scraps are washed down the drain, the fat and grease from the food can build up in your sewer lines, causing raw sewage to back up into homes, businesses, and the environment. Anything with a fat content, including dairy products, salad dressings, and cooking oils, can contribute to grease-clogged pipes. Avoid costly home plumbing bills by following these three simple steps:

1. **Trap** bacon grease or meat drippings in a sealable container and toss in the trash.
2. **Scrape** all food scraps in the compost or trash.
3. **Wipe** all greasy, oily, creamy, or buttery food residues from dishes before you wash them.

*Running hot water and soap down the drain does not prevent grease build-up and blockages.*

You also can recycle your liquid cooking oils at the City’s Household Pollutant Collection Facility. Call (918) 591-4325 to arrange an appointment.

For more information on proper disposal of fats, oils, and grease, visit: [www.TrapTheGreaseTulsa.com](http://www.TrapTheGreaseTulsa.com)

Despite all these preventive measures, if you see, hear or smell something you think might be a sewage overflow or backup, report it immediately by calling (918) 586-6999. The City of Tulsa has a customer service employee available around the clock and, if needed, a work crew is available to inspect and take action.

### Good News for Tulsa’s ISO Rating

October is Fire Prevention Month – a good time to celebrate Tulsa’s recent advance to a No. 1 rating with the Insurance Services Offices (ISO). Residents are encouraged to contact their home insurance agent to explore opportunities for reduced costs.

“We are very proud of this rating, and we share this honor with only three other fire departments in Oklahoma,” said Tulsa Fire Chief Ray Driskell. “The Tulsa Fire Department is working diligently to provide the highest quality fire and life safety services.”

During Fire Prevention Month, it is important to remember the essentials of fire safety. Make sure to have working smoke alarms in your home, and have a fire escape plan. Here is safety information from the National Fire Protection Association:

- Install smoke alarms in every sleeping room, outside each separate sleeping area, and on every level of your home. A smoke alarm should be high on a wall or on the ceiling. Keep smoke alarms away from the kitchen to reduce false alarms.

- Test all smoke alarms once a month, and immediately replace any smoke alarm that does not respond properly when tested. Replace all smoke alarms when they are 10 years old – 10 years from the date of manufacture. To find that date, look at the back of the smoke alarm.

- Map out an escape plan for your household, with two exits from each room if possible, and a path to the outside from each exit. Also, mark the location of each smoke alarm. Be sure that escape routes are clear, and windows open easily.

- Plan an outside meeting place at a safe distance from your home. Assign someone to assist family members who need help waking up or getting out of the home. Practice your home fire drill twice a year – in daytime and at night, and practice using different ways out.

- Teach children how to escape on their own in case you can’t help them. Once you get outside, stay outside. Never go back inside a burning building.

### City Closings
**Upcoming City-Observed Holidays**

The City of Tulsa’s offices will be closed for Veterans Day and during the holidays at Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year’s Day. Emergency responders, including police and firefighters, will be available as always on those dates. The following closings will occur:

- **Monday, Nov. 11** – Veterans Day
- **Thursday/Friday, Nov. 28 – 29** Thanksgiving/Day After
- **Tuesday/Wednesday, Dec. 24 – 25** Christmas Eve/Christmas
- **Wednesday, Jan. 1, 2020** – New Year’s Day

Need assistance with a water or sewer problem during the above City-observed holidays? Call these 24-hour emergency numbers: Water (918) 596-9488 and Sewer (918) 586-6999. Details about City of Tulsa programs and services are available even on holidays. Many questions can be answered, problems reported, utility bills paid, etc. at: [www.cityoftulsa.org](http://www.cityoftulsa.org)

If you need additional assistance during the holidays, you may also call the following:

**Non-Emergency Numbers**

Police: (918) 596-9222

Fire: (918) 596-9977

Community Services Information: 211