

WATER

WATERWORKS FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Annually, the Village is required to submit a Waterworks Financial Overview to the ministry. This helps ensure that municipalities are properly planning, funding & maintaining their water systems. The general principle is that municipal waterworks should be financially self-sustaining, meaning that the users should cover the full cost of providing water services. The province of Saskatchewan recommends that the people who use the water should pay for it – just like electricity, gas or phone services. This means your water bill should cover the cost of operating, maintaining & upgrading the water system.

If they aren't covered by users, the shortfall comes from general taxes or debt. If a community isn't covering costs through user fees, the Ministry may expect a transition plan to move toward full-cost recovery.

The 2025 Waterworks Financial Overview has been completed and you are now able to view it on our website.

Looking at our 2025 results, water revenue covered 1.15 times the cost of operating the waterworks, not including the debt payment for the water treatment plant. This indicates that, based on our current operating costs, our water rates are sufficient to cover ongoing operation of the water system and provide a modest amount of revenue toward future needs.

It is important to note that this calculation does not include debt payments, which is why we still need to look at long-term water rates and reserves as we plan for the significant infrastructure investments ahead.

We also want to provide some clarification regarding the Waterworks Financial Overview. In previous years, the financial information for water and sewer operations was combined in this overview. Historically, water and sewer were not being separated in the same way they are now.

As part of the work that has been done behind the scenes to rebuild and improve our accounting and financial systems, we have now separated the water and sewer operations financially.

Going forward, water and sewer will be treated and reported as separate utility operations, giving Council and residents a much clearer picture of actual revenues and expenses associated with each service.

We have also asked our auditor to ensure that the water operations are audited separately from sewer operations, so that sewer expenses and revenues are not included in the Waterworks Financial Overview as this is not something that is to be included in this report.

When the two utilities are combined, it can be more difficult to see whether the rates being charged for each service are appropriately reflecting the actual cost of providing that service. By separating the finances, we can look at each utility independently and make more informed decisions about whether rates are sustainable and sufficient to cover operating costs, and maintenance.