

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## Regarding the upcoming Sewer Rate

### Why do this? **Increase**

Sewer rates have not increased in more than 10 years and the cost of doing business continues to go up.

#### The City of Lewistown needs to

- have adequate revenues to operate the sewer system
- meet debt service requirements
- prepare for future infrastructure improvements
- maintain appropriate reserves

### But My Taxes are so high...

Sewer rates fund the sewer system.

Your tax dollars fund public safety, recreation and the library. The City has assessments that pay for street improvements and street lights.

Under State law these funds, must be kept separate.

Locally the Average Tax Distribution FY 2023	
School	44 %
City	32 %
County	14 %
State	10 %

## Public Hearing

A public hearing on this increase will be held on Monday, November 14, 2022, at 6:00 p.m. at the Council on Aging located at 307 W. Watson Street in Lewistown. Comments may also be mailed to the City Clerk, City of Lewistown, 305 W. Watson, Ste 3, Lewistown, MT 59457.



## For More Info

Contact the City Clerk

- [www.cityoflewistown.com](http://www.cityoflewistown.com)
- (406) 535-1760
- City Hall located at 305 W. Watson Street, Monday - Friday, 8 am to 5 pm

### How much will it cost?

The average Residential sewer bill will go up to \$45.50 in 2023. In 2021 that sewer bill was \$30.85

The average Commercial sewer bill will go up to \$45.50 in 2023. In 2021 that sewer bill was \$30.85

### The average sewer bill in other communities

- Laurel = \$61.43
- Livingston = \$57.43
- Dillion = \$75.00
- Moore = \$31.35
- Harlowton = \$42.23
- Grass Range = \$41.87

## We will continue to...

*Use residential customer readings from Jan, Feb and March water bills to set the winter average for their sewer usage. This average is used so that you don't pay sewer while you irrigate in the summer. This average will be used to calculate your sewer usage for the whole year.*

*Commercial customers pay sewer for every 1000 gallons of water used.*

## What is changing?

The Commission has proposed changing how the sewer base rate is assessed. In 2023, the sewer base rate will be charged on the number of equivalent dwelling units (EDU).

**SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENCE = 1 EDU**

**4 UNIT APARTMENT BUILDING = 4 EDU**

**1 RETAIL SPACE = 1 EDU**