

**Frequently Asked Questions for Funding Public Fire Protection
Beginning On Monthly Bedford City Utilities Bill June 20, 2025**

Q: What will this fee pay for?

A: Although this fee has often been called a “hydrant fee” in the past, the public fire protection fee will pay for more than just the installation and maintenance of fire hydrants. Fire protection requires water infrastructure maintenance. The Public Fire Protection item that will be put on your water bill helps pay only costs related to the infrastructure. This fee will not pay for any of the costs of operating the Fire Department.

Q: Why must Bedford City Utilities customers pay for public fire protection?

A: Providing a water supply for fire protection is an important function of the City of Bedford’s water utility. By shifting the fee to the Utility bill, all who benefit from fire protection share the burden of the additional costs associated with it. In years past, the responsibility was borne only by those who paid property taxes. The City of Bedford paid Bedford City Utilities for this in the past. This new method of collecting associated costs is more equitable. Moving the source of funding for public fire protection from the property tax bill to the water bill helps to accomplish two important goals. First, it helps ensure that everyone who benefits from the availability of public fire protection (including not-for-profit organizations) pays for the service. Second, it frees up tax dollars to support other Bedford City services such as public safety.

Q: How much will my bill go up?

A: The public fire protection fee will be applied to all water meters. Each water customer of City Utilities inside the Bedford City limits will pay a monthly fee based on the meter size. This will appear as a separate line item on your City Utilities bill. Most residential meters are 5/8” meters.

<u>Meter Size</u>	<u>Monthly Charge</u>
5/8"	\$ 4.75
3/4"	\$ 7.12
1"	\$ 11.85
1 1/2"	\$ 23.73
2"	\$ 37.95
3"	\$ 71.16
4"	\$ 118.60
6"	\$ 237.23
8"	\$ 379.55
10"	\$ 616.77
12"	\$1,020.05

Q: When will this happen?

A: This fee was approved by the Bedford City Council on April 15, 2025. Customers will begin seeing the monthly public fire protection line item on their City Utilities water bill beginning on the June 20, 2025 bill.

**Q: Why am I being charged for public fire protection on more than one meter for my regular water service?
Is there a charge for irrigation meters?**

A: The state law that allows municipally owned water utilities to apply the cost of public fire protection to its customers requires that the fee be applied to all water meters based on size. Exception is irrigation system meters can be exempt.

Q: Do I still have to pay this fee if my property is vacant?

A: Yes. It is likely that you continue to pay homeowner’s insurance on your home even though it is vacant. Likewise, public fire protection will be available even though your home is vacant, so the fee will continue to be charged.

May 2025 - June 2025

June 2025

May 2025

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
May 18	19 MON COMPOST MON TRASH ROUTE 12:00pm CLOSED 1PM	20 TUES COMPOST TUES TRASH ROUTE 12:00pm CLOSED 1PM	21 WED COMPOST WED TRASH ROUTE 12:00pm CLOSED 1PM	22 THUR TRASH ROUTE THURS COMPOST 12:00pm CLOSED 1PM	23 FRI COMPOST FRI TRASH ROUTE 12:00pm CLOSED 1PM	24 MON AUTO TRASH ROUTE
25	26 CITY OFFICES CLOSED NO MON COMPOST NO MON RECYCLE NO MON TRASH ROUTE	27 MON/TUES COMPOST MON/TUES RECYCLE TUES TRASH ROUTE 12:00pm CLOSED 1PM	28 WED COMPOST WED RECYCLE WED TRASH ROUTE 12:00pm CLOSED 1PM	29 THUR TRASH ROUTE THURS COMPOST THURSDAY RECYCLE 12:00pm CLOSED 1PM	30 FRI COMPOST FRI TRASH ROUTE FRIDAY RECYCLE 12:00pm CLOSED 1PM	31
Jun 1	2 MON COMPOST MON TRASH ROUTE 12:00pm CLOSED 1PM	3 TUES COMPOST TUES TRASH ROUTE 12:00pm CLOSED 1PM	4 WED COMPOST WED TRASH ROUTE 12:00pm CLOSED 1PM	5 A UTILITY BILL DUE THUR TRASH ROUTE THURS COMPOST 12:00pm CLOSED 1PM	6 FRI COMPOST FRI TRASH ROUTE 12:00pm CLOSED 1PM	7
8	9 MON COMPOST MON TRASH ROUTE MONDAY RECYCLE 12:00pm CLOSED 1PM	10 TUES COMPOST TUES TRASH ROUTE TUESDAY RECYCLE 12:00pm CLOSED 1PM	11 WED COMPOST WED RECYCLE WED TRASH ROUTE 12:00pm CLOSED 1PM	12 THUR TRASH ROUTE THURS COMPOST THURSDAY RECYCLE 12:00pm CLOSED 1PM	13 FRI COMPOST FRI TRASH ROUTE FRIDAY RECYCLE 12:00pm CLOSED 1PM	14
15	16 MON COMPOST MON TRASH ROUTE 12:00pm CLOSED 1PM	17 TUES COMPOST TUES TRASH ROUTE 12:00pm CLOSED 1PM	18 WED COMPOST WED TRASH ROUTE 12:00pm CLOSED 1PM	19 THUR TRASH ROUTE THURS COMPOST 12:00pm CLOSED 1PM	20 FRI COMPOST FRI TRASH ROUTE 12:00pm CLOSED 1PM	21