

Sanitary Board of Bluefield - Capital Improvement Projects Fact Sheet

- **What does the Sanitary Board of Bluefield do?**
 - We collect and clean all the community's sewer (used water) that comes from toilets, showers, bathtubs, sinks, and washing machines. We have over 7,800 customers and treat sewer from City of Bluefield WV, Town of Bluefield VA, Brushfork WV, Deerfield VA, and Tazewell County Pubic Sewer Authority VA.
- **How does the Sanitary Board of Bluefield clean sewer?**
 - We have over 250 miles of sewer piping throughout the area that sends the sewer to one of our two Wastewater Treatment Plants. These two treatment plants can clean up a total of 9.5 million gallons a day of used water.
- **Do we even need a public sewer utility in our community?**
 - **Absolutely!** If we do not have a functioning sewer system in our community, everybody's dirty, used water has no place to go except onto the ground or into the local streams.
- **Why is there a proposed rate increase pending before the City Board of Bluefield?**
 - This increase in rates will be used to catch up with post-COIVD inflation, complete several system projects, which some have been in the planning stage for 5 years, and continue to replace more failing sewer lines. These projects include sewer system replacement throughout various areas and pumping station upgrades/replacements for our communities. Additionally, we will be able to provide sewer access to families that currently do not have it and allow future development to occur once public sewer access has been established.
- **How much money will these projects cost?**
 - The sewer system upgrades will require a \$ 11.7 million investment into our Sewer Systems throughout the community. The in-house main line replacement will require a \$2.5 million investment and will replace over 16,000 feet of dilapidated sewer line. Our entire sewer line replacement goals, provided the new rates are selected, will invest \$13 million into new sewer systems and end up **replacing over 5 miles of pipe** in our area.
- **How much will my sewer bill go up to pay for this?**
 - That depends on how much water you use? Since sewer bills are based on gallons of water used, most sewer bill amounts are different. Currently, a typical family pays **\$13.50 for every 1000 gallons of water used per month**. After these projects are completed in 2029, that rate would be **\$21.27 for every 1000 gallons used**.
- **Will my sewer bill go up this much all at once?**
 - No, to help families adjust their budgets to the increase, we have spread the total amount over the next 5 years. Our sewer bills will increase a little each January until the year 2029.
- **Don't we already pay the highest sewer rates in the state?**
 - No, **currently our sewer rates are in the middle of the entire state**. We rank 165 out of 308 sewer providers in the state.



2024 – 2029 Rate Adjustment(Proposed)

<u>Current Cost per 1000 Gallons of Water Used</u> - <u>\$13.50</u>	<u>Current Minimum Bill –</u> <u>\$27.00</u>	<u>Current Average Bill - \$45.90</u>
Step 1 Monthly Increase/1000 Gals. - \$1.35	Step 1 Monthly Increase - \$2.70	Step 1 Monthly Increase - \$4.59
Step 2 Monthly Increase/1000 Gals. - \$1.49	Step 2 Monthly Increase - \$2.98	Step 2 Monthly Increase - \$5.07
Step 3 Monthly Increase/1000 Gals. - \$2.45	Step 3 Monthly Increase - \$4.90	Step 3 Monthly Increase - \$8.33
Step 4 Monthly Increase/1000 Gals. - \$1.38	Step 4 Monthly Increase - \$2.76	Step 4 Monthly Increase - \$4.69
Step 5 Monthly Increase/1000 Gals. - \$1.10	Step 5 Monthly Increase - \$2.20	Step 5 Monthly Increase - \$3.74
<u>Year 2029 Rates -</u>	<u>\$21.27</u>	<u>\$72.32</u>

Cash Items

- **3.0% Annual O&M Increase.**
- **\$315,000 to purchase new equipment such as: Sewer Line Flusher Truck, Line Inspection Camera, Track Skid Steer Loader. (Based on Funding Assumptions Below)**
- **Complies with Senate Bill 234 and funds the required capital reserve account.**
- **\$5.7 million total in house capital investment projects for the entire system.**
 - **SB 234 (CWCR) Emergency Repair Fund Requirement - \$700,000**
 - **Midway Sewer Sub-Main Replacement - \$300,000**
 - **College Ave. Phase III, Bluefield, WV - \$1,000,000**
 - **East End Railyard Main Line, Bluefield, WV - \$800,000**
 - **John Nash Pump Station #2 Main Upgrade, Bluefield WV - \$250,000**
 - **Union St., Bluefield, WV Matching Grant Fund - \$1,000,000**
 - **Swope Alley Sewer Main Pipe Bursting, Bluefield, WV - \$250,000**
 - **Stockton Street Sewer Main, Bluefield, VA - \$1,000,000**
 - **New Office Building Matching Funds - \$400,000**



Project Financing

- **\$7.3 million** total funding for contracted, whole sewer system replacement projects in City of Bluefield, Brushfork, and Town of Bluefield, VA
 - Midway, Bluefield, WV - **\$2,780,000 @2.0%, 30 years**
 - Thompsons PS, Brushfork, WV - **\$2,621,000 @1.75%, 30 years**
 - Wintercreek, Bluefield, VA - **\$1,907,909 @0.5%, 30 years**

Grant Funding Projects (Not Factored in Rates)

- **\$7.78 million** total received/applied grant funding for contracted, whole sewer system replacement projects in City of Bluefield, Brushfork, and Town of Bluefield, VA
 - Nichols Rd Community, Brushfork, WV - **\$1,100,000**
 - **\$1,000,000 WV DEP Failing Septic System Grant (Applied)**
 - **\$100,000 Mercer Co. Commission ARP (Received)**
 - **Wintercreek Community, Bluefield, VA - \$722,373 US EPA Grant (Received)**
 - Union Street Community, Bluefield, WV – **\$4,000,000**
 - **\$1,000,000 USDA/IJDC**
 - **\$1,000,000 Community Development Block Grant**
 - **\$1,000,000 WV DEP Clean Water Fund**
 - **\$1,000,000 CDS Earmarks**
 - Thompson Pump Station, Brushfork WV - **\$180,000 Mercer Co. Commission ARP (Received)**
 - Midway Community, Bluefield, WV - **\$2,000,000**
 - **\$1,000,000 Community Development Block Grant (Received)**
 - **\$1,000,000 USDA/IJDC Grant (Applied)**



Local Sewer Utility Rate Comparisons

(WV PSC Site 5/31/2024)

Sewer Utility (Effective Rate Date)	Minimum Bill	Sewer Utility (Effective Rate Date)	Average Bill (3400 gal.)
Greenville/Glenwood PSD (2021)	\$22.68	Mercer County PSD (2022)	\$27.01
Mercer County PSD (2022)	\$25.26	Princeton Sanitary Board (2019)	\$33.96
Bluefield Sanitary Board (currently)	\$27.00	Greenville/Glenwood PSD (2021)	\$37.07
Athens Sanitary Board (2021)	\$27.16	Athens Sanitary Board (2021)	\$44.97
Princeton Sanitary Board (2019)	\$29.00	Town of Tazewell, VA	\$45.69
Bluefield Sanitary Board (Proposed Step 1)	\$29.70	Bluefield Sanitary Board (currently)	\$45.90
Beckley Sanitary Board (2022)	\$30.12	Richlands, VA (2023)	\$47.03
Town of Tazewell, VA	\$30.50	Beckley Sanitary Board (2022)	\$49.90
Richlands, VA (2023)	\$36.73	Bluefield Sanitary Board Proposed (Step 1)	\$50.49
Tazewell County PSA, VA (2023)	\$43.52	Bluewell/Bramwell PSD (2023)	\$54.44
Bluewell/Bramwell PSD (2023)	\$48.30	Tazewell County PSA, VA (2023)	\$57.56
WV American Water (2023)	\$61.42	WV American Water (2023)	\$83.65