

The Reason Your Water Bill Increased

In 2015 the Winnsboro City Council renegotiated the City's water purchase contract with the Franklin County Water District. The new contract replaced the 2002 purchase contract between the City and the Water District. The contract provides for a graduated increase in the amount of water or "acre feet of the lake" diverted or set aside for the City's current and future use. The contract requires the City to pay for the amount of water set aside for its usage. In accordance with the contract terms the amount set aside has increased from 1700 acre feet to 2000 acre feet. Since the City is required to pay for an increased amount of water set aside, the City's cost of water has increased. As with any commodity, as raw material costs are increased, prices to retail customers increase to offset the cost. The cost of water to the City has increased by approximately \$24,000 per year. This represents a 16.6 percent increase in cost. This increase in cost to the City will be reflected in an increase of approximately \$4.00 per month on the base rate for average residential customers. The contact with the Water District will require additional increases in 2024 and 2029. The adjustments for those increases will be made at that time.

While we understand that no one likes paying more for water, it should be noted that City water rates have not increased in over five years, despite the increase in costs associated with the production of drinkable water from the raw water the City purchases from the Water District. The City Council is committed to keep water rates as low as possible, however, when the purchase contract for raw water with the Franklin County Water District requires an increase in the cost of raw water, these costs must be passed on to the end users.

Thank you for your understanding of this matter.