

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA *
*
COUNTY OF MCCORMICK *

ORDINANCE 26-02
FILED
GWENDOLYN D. CHILES
2026 JUN 17 P 12:36

AN ORDINANCE TO RAISE REVENUE, SET RATES, MAKE APPROPRIATIONS AND ADOPT A BUDGET FOR COUNTY OF MCCORMICK, WATER AND SEWER DEPARTMENT, SOUTH CAROLINA, FOR FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2026, AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2027.

WHEREAS, the County of McCormick Water System purchases wholesale treated drinking water from the Town of McCormick Commission of Public Works, the Town of Calhoun Falls and Columbia County, GA;

NOW, THEREFORE, be it ordained by the County Council of McCormick County, South Carolina, in meeting duly assembled, that the following appropriations and the estimated revenue to support these appropriations, as well as other supporting documents and details contained in the recommended budget for McCormick County Water and Sewer Department, including the rates and fees set out herein, **ARE HEREBY ADOPTED**; such supporting documents and details being made a part hereof and incorporated herein by reference.

WATER RATES

RESIDENTIAL

TO INCLUDE NON-PROFITS AND AGRICULTURAL USE

¾" to 1" meter First	0 gallons	\$17.00 (minimum)
	All Over 0 gallons	\$ 4.10 per 1,000 gallons

COMMERCIAL

¾" to 2" meter (small commercial)	First 0 gallons	\$33.50 (minimum)
	All Over 0 gallons	\$ 4.10 per 1,000 gallons

¾" to 2" meter (small commercial three (3) or more Units to include but not limited to; mobile home parks State and Federal Parks, Trailer Clubs, Boating Clubs Hunting Clubs, Marinas, and Motels)	First 0 gallons	\$79.50 (minimum)
	All Over 0 gallons	\$ 4.10 per 1,000 gallons

3" to 5" meter (medium commercial)	First 154,000 gallons	\$ 513.00 (minimum)
	All Over 154,000 gallons	\$ 4.10 per 1,000 gallons

6" and larger meter (large, extra large Commercial and Industrial)	First 500,000 gallons	\$1,664.00 (minimum)
	All Over 500,000 gallons	\$ 4.10 per 1,000 gallons

SEWER RATES

(Sewer rates are based on water consumption*)

\$20.00 (minimum) Base for all Sewer

RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL

Residential	Based on 100% of water used, as determined by water meter reading— \$7.50 per 1,000 gallons.
Small Commercial	Based on 100% of water used, as determined by water meter reading— \$7.50 per 1,000 gallons.
Medium Size Commercial	Based on 100% of water used, as determined by water meter reading— \$7.50 per 1,000 gallons.
Large Size Commercial	Based on 100% of water used, as determined by water meter reading— \$7.50 per 1,000 gallons.
Industrial	Based on 100% of water used, as determined by water meter reading— \$7.50 per 1,000 gallons.
Extra Large Commercial	Based on meter reading— \$7.50 per 1,000 gallons

*Water meters that are installed and used strictly for irrigation or similar purposes and which are not connected to and do not impact the sewer system in any manner are not subject to sewer charges based on water consumption.

Interceptor Tank Inspection Fee: \$100 (this has to be done every 5 years per DHEC guidelines).

Labor Charges: \$50 per hour with a minimum charge of \$50.

Pumping of Interceptor Tanks: \$250 per pump out.

Service Charge: \$50

Water Sample Bacterial/Chlorine (at the request of customer): \$65

Broken Lock Penalties:

1st Offense: \$50

2nd Offense: \$100

3rd Offense: Tap Removal/Prosecution

Service Tampering Penalties

1st Offense: \$50

2nd Offense: \$100

3rd Offense: Tap Removal/Prosecution

Relocate Water Meter (at customer request): \$250

Cost to replace Water Meter Box & Lid:

Heavy Duty Plastic Meter Box	\$45
Solid Cast Iron Meter Box Lid	\$16
Labor	\$15

*Larger Box will be based on Actual Cost

Re-read Meter Fee (Customer Request):	\$25
Meter Accuracy Test (Customer Request):	\$30

Work Not Specified

Installation and other work not specified will be billed for labor, materials, and equipment at Utility Department Cost.

TAP FEES FOR WATER METERS

Water Tap for ¾" Meter	\$ 2,000.00
Water Tap for 1" Meter & Larger	\$ 2,500.00 (Plus additional cost in excess of the Cost of a ¾" Meter)

TAP FEES FOR SEWER

Sewer Taps	\$ 4,000.00 (Plus cost of Materials)
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NON- PAYMENT OF BILL

The failure of a user to pay charges duly imposed shall result in the automatic imposition of the following penalties:

1. Payment is due on the 15th of each month. This is the due date. If the due date falls on a weekend or holiday, the due date is extended to the next business day. Payment must be received by 5:00 PM on the due date. Payment received after 5:00 PM on the due date will be credited the next business day and will be subject to a late fee. Non-payment by the due date is subject to a late fee of 10% of the delinquent amount. Payment not received by the 25th of the month will be subject to an additional \$40.00 late fee and service to the user's property may be disconnected/locked without further notice.

RECONNECTION FEE

In the event it becomes necessary for the County to discontinue service to a User's property, service will be restored upon User's payment of the outstanding balance of the account, including all late fees, plus a \$50.00 reconnection fee as set forth in the scheduled rates and fees. (This will occur if meter has been locked through two billing cycles due to nonpayment of bill.)

WATER LEAK BILL ADJUSTMENT

Upon the request of a residential customer, the Water and Sewer Department can adjust two consecutive (2) bills per every (3) three years in the event of a water leak. The customer must request the adjustment within three (3) months of the leak. The customer must provide proof of the leak in the form of repair or parts bills. The adjustment is made by averaging the three (3) months of water use prior to the leak. That average water use is subtracted from the usage on the month requested for adjustment and then multiplied by \$2.70 per thousand gallons. The average three (3) month water use is then multiplied by the current usage rate. The two amounts are added together to determine the adjusted billing amount.

RESIDENTIAL SEWER BILL ADJUSTMENT

Upon the request of a residential customer, the Water and Sewer Department can adjust two consecutive (2) bills per every (3) years in the event of a leak. The customer must request the adjustment within three (3) months of the leak. The adjustment is made by averaging the three (3) months of water use prior to the leak. The average water use is subtracted from the usage on the month requested for adjustment and then multiplied by \$4.00 per thousand gallons. The average three (3) month water use is then multiplied by the current usage rate. The two amounts are added together to determine the adjusted billing amount.

BAD CHECK FEES

A fee of \$35.00 will be charged for any check or bank draft that is returned to the Water and Sewer Service by the bank for non-payment. Once an account has had two (2) returned checks during the calendar year the account will be a cash only account for one year which will end twelve months after being a cash only account.

CHANGE OVER FEE

A \$50.00 Change Over Fee for administrative services will be charged to change the account from one owner to another owner; provided, however, that such Change Over Fee shall not be charged to a surviving spouse who is not listed as an owner on the account in the event of the death of the spouse who was listed as the account owner. This exemption shall only apply to a surviving spouse who is not listed on the account and who resided with the deceased spouse at the location of service.

ALL CONVENIENCE RECONNECTION FEE

Upon the request to lock a meter for the convenience of not paying the monthly minimum base fee, the Water and Sewer Department will charge a \$50 reconnection (unlock fee) for all meters that are turned off and on during the fiscal year.

RENTER'S DEPOSIT

A refundable deposit of \$100.00 will be paid by those customers renting property.

FLOW METER

A refundable deposit of \$50.00 plus a \$100 flat rate and \$4.10 per thousand gallons used will be paid by the customers utilizing the Flow Meter.

INSTALLATION / REPAIR OF LOW-PRESSURE TANK SEWER SYSTEM

Due to DHEC regulations, any low-pressure tank sewer system installed and attached to McCormick County Sewer System must be inspected during installation by McCormick County. Installation and labor per installation, plus cost of all materials will be as contracted for between the property owner and an entity designated by the County Council. Property owner will provide both electrical drop and sewer drop. All plans and specifications will be submitted to McCormick County Water and Sewer Department prior to the start of construction. The property owner will be responsible for all costs related to the repair, maintenance, pump out, or replacement of the low-pressure tank system. No one other than McCormick County authorized personnel or other persons authorized by the County shall provide maintenance to the system.

FRIVOLOUS SERVICE CALLS

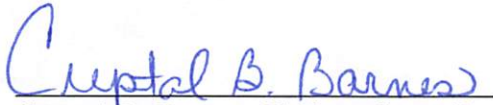
Any service deemed frivolous shall be subject to a fee of \$15.00.

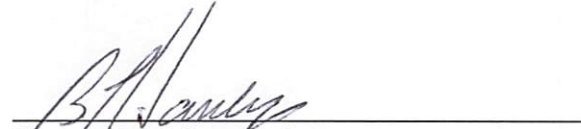
The County Council hereby appropriates and adopts a budget for County of McCormick, Water and Sewer Department, South Carolina, for Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2027. The following pages provide the supporting detail of revenues and expenditures and are incorporated into the body of the ordinance:

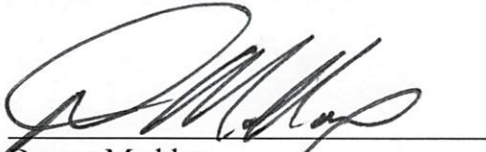
TOTAL REVENUES	\$ 5,095,911
GRAND TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 5,095,911

ORDINANCE 26-02 COUNTY OF MCCORMICK
WATER AND SEWER BUDGET
SIGNATURE PAGE

MCCORMICK COUNTY COUNCIL

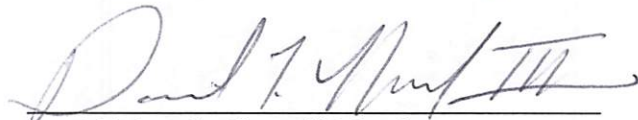

Crystal B. Barnes, Clerk to Council


Bernard Hamby, Chairman

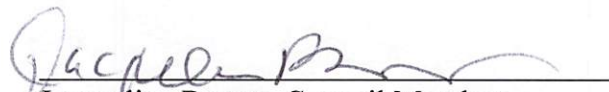

Darren Maddox
Finance Director


Charles Jennings, Vice Chairman


James Upchurch
County Administrator


David Morrah, Council Member


Charles Cook, Council Member


Jacqueline Brown, Council Member

1st Reading: April 21, 2026
2nd Reading: May 19, 2026
Public Hearing: June 16, 2026
3rd Reading: June 16, 2026

April 21, 2026

Dear McCormick County Council and Residents of McCormick County:

It is my privilege to present the recommended budget for the McCormick County Water and Sewer Department for Fiscal Year 2026–2027. The recommended Water and Sewer Department budget is balanced at \$5,095,911.

Tap Fees

For many years, the County has lost money on each new tap installation. After reviewing the fees charged by surrounding counties, we are recommending adjustments to bring McCormick County's tap fees to a competitive level that will allow the County to recover its costs rather than continue operating at a loss. These recommended increases would apply only to new taps and would not affect most current residents and businesses.

Water Usage Fees

The recommended budget does not increase water usage fees. It does, however, include a recommended ordinance change that would provide additional flexibility for customers who experience a leak. Under the current policy, customers may receive a bill reduction one time every three years. The proposed change would allow eligible customers to receive up to two months of relief within a three-year period.

Sewer Usage Fees

The recommended budget does not increase sewer usage fees.

Conclusion

This proposed budget represents the first of several steps needed to place the Water and Sewer Department on a fiscally sustainable path. To fully eliminate the deficit, prepare for future line replacement, and keep pace with rising operating costs, usage fees will likely need to be increased in the near future. Historically, the County has not set aside funding for long-term line replacement, and that must change if we are to build a system that is financially stable and sustainable.

James Upchurch
County Administrator

McCormick County Water/Sewer

Budgeted Revenues

FY 2026 - 2027

	<i>Budgeted</i> <i>2025 – 2026</i>	<i>Recommended</i> <i>2026 – 2027</i>
Water Revenues		
Residential	2,000,000	2,000,000
PRT	35,000	40,000
Prison	105,000	100,000
De La Howe/Nursing Home	29,000	30,000
U.S. Corps of Engineers	12,000	10,000
National Guard	6,000	6,000
Small Commercial	130,000	120,000
SLV Tap Fee	125,000	200,000
Tap Fees	62,000	100,000
Reconnect/Cut Off/Change Over	75,000	80,000
School District	15,000	15,000
Miscellaneous	2,000	2,000
Subtotal Water Revenues	2,596,000	2,703,000
Sewer Revenues		
PRT	58,000	75,000
Prison	350,000	350,000
De La Howe/Nursing Home/School	45,000	60,000
National Guard	1,500	2,500
Sewer Tap Fees – SLV	100,00	120,000
Sewer Tap Fees	3,000	4,000
Interceptor Tank Inspections	8,000	15,000
Service Repairs	75,000	75,000
Residential/Small Commercial	800,000	900,000
Subtotal Sewer Revenues	1,440,500	1,601,500

Revenue Interest		
Other – County Loan interest	-	1,000
Interest CD Water & Sewer	1,000	1,000
Depreciation	1,000	1,000
Contingency	1,000	1,000
Sewage Reserve	1,000	1,000
Debt Service 2001 CD	200	200
Debt Service 2008 CD	500	500
Debt Reserve 2009	100	100
Subtotal Revenue Interest	4,800	5,800
 Transfer-In Unreserved Fund Balance	 1,054,791	 785,611
 Total Revenue	 5,096,091	 5,095,911

McCormick County Water/Sewer

Budgeted Expenses

FY 2026 - 2027

	<i>Budgeted</i> 2025 – 2026	<i>Recommended</i> 2026 – 2027
Expenditures		
Office Employee Salaries	22,460	22,460
Employee Fringe Benefits - Office	5,620	5,620
Operations	2,200,180	2,200,000
Professional Services - Audit	18,000	18,000
Bank Service Fees	8,000	8,000
Pipe & Other Supplies	250,000	0
Rent/Lease	17,400	17,400
Water	1,325,000	1,475,000
Vehicle Operations	4,500	4,500
Sewage Treatment	380,000	480,000
Depreciation	550,000	550,000
Water Towers – Inspection Repairs	32,000	32,000
Machine Equipment Repairs	25,000	25,000
Sewer System Upgrade	42,000	42,000
Worker's Compensation	30,000	30,000
Property & Liability Insurance	52,000	52,000
BB&T Revenue Bond	5,000	5,000
Washington School Road Waterline	931	931
RDA Loan	30,000	30,000
2009 USDA Bond	18,000	18,000
New Water Line Installation	80,000	80,000
Total Expenditures	5,096,091	5,095,911