

Water Rate Increase Large But Due, says Utility

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After nine years, a water rate increase in La Crosse is bound to be on the big side. Water utility manager Mark Johnson agrees that an estimated 32% hike for water rates in the city isn't inconsequential. But he says that percentage represents an average increase and the average water user will see a \$15 per quarter jump on the water bill. Johnson says the increase size is unavoidable since it's been so long since the last increase.

2002 was the city's last water rate hike. The city council will have to agree to the water increase.

The water utility has received increases in sewer rates and, late in 2010, instituted a new fire hydrant fee.