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Taken a good look at your La Crosse water bill recently? The new fire hydrant charge should be on there. For most in La Crosse, it's an additional eight bucks or so on your bill that's new this year. It's to pay for adequate water flow in fire emergencies, says city public works director, Dale Hexom. The amount of the fire charge is based on the size of water meters. And normally tax exempt properties are not exempt from the new utility charge