



Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) Implementation Development - Update

Infrastructure & Development Committee
August 19, 2026



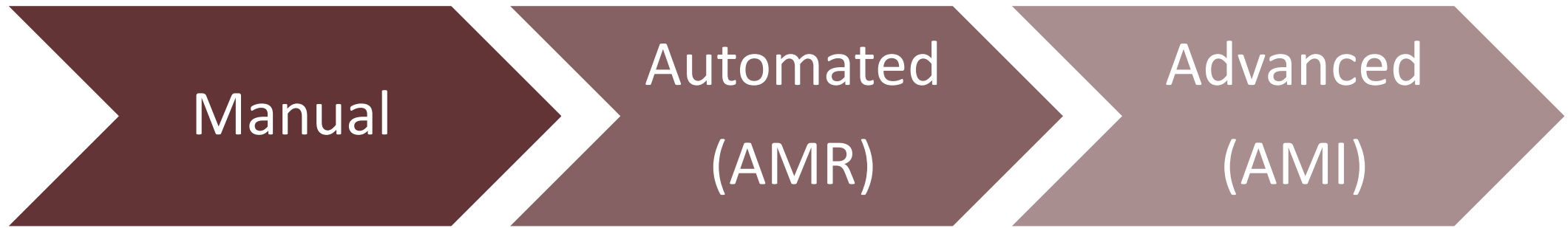
Recap

- The City has initiated the development of an Advanced Meter Infrastructure (AMI) Program through an interdepartmental committee, focused on improving the condition, accuracy, and reliability of the City's meter infrastructure.
- While AMI remains the long-term goal, the most immediate need is the replacement of aging and underperforming meters that have reached or exceeded their expected service lives.
- Addressing these core infrastructure issues first provides the foundation for future AMI capabilities.

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AMI Planning Committee Members

Evolution of Meter Reading



1855: Henry Worthington issued first patent in U.S. for water meter

1950s: Visual Readings Remotely (without entering building)

1980s: Radio Frequency Remote Readings

1990s: Fixed Frequency Radio Readings (cellular)

2000s: Two-way Communication Systems Deployed

**Current
Operations**

Future State of Meters

Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) system

- Eliminates the need for physical visits and vehicle-based meter reading by transmitting data over long ranges. (typically 0.5 to 5 miles)
- Sends readings to the cloud as frequently as every 15 minutes.
- Provides highly detailed water usage data, helping quickly identify and address leaks.
- Uses solid-state, ultrasonic meters for accurate and reliable measurement.
- Enhances customer access and communication through web portal, giving residents near real-time insight and greater control over their water usage.
- Allows customers to setup consumption alerts to notify them almost immediately of abnormal usage / potential problems.
- We will begin transitioning to this type of meter as soon as we receive our first shipment.



Project Scope

PHASE 1: ADDRESS METER AGING

- Replace meters currently beyond their recommended service life consistent with Water Conservation Plan
- Replace meters that are not AMI compatible
- Total of 12,787 meters to be replaced

PHASE 2: AMI IMPLEMENTATION

- Deploy Communication Infrastructure (monopoles and data collectors)
- Integrate system
- Deploy web portal for customers

Total cost: \$9,407,810

Project Funding Options Under Consideration

Option 1

Fund project in full (one year) or in phases (multiple years) by including in the five-year Capital Improvement Plan

We are in the process of obtaining quotes for the additional meter replacements needed to complete the project.

Option 2

Fund the project over several years from working capital in the Water Fund

Replace a set number of meters each year to get all inventory up to date and AMI compatible (number of meters to be replaced and timeline would be determined based on approved funding for the multi-year program)

Option 3

Pursue a grant (or grants) to fund the entire project or portions of the project.

Option 1 – Capital Improvement Plan

Possibility:

Fund project in full (one year) or in phases (multiple years) by including in the five-year Capital Improvement Plan

We are in the process of obtaining quotes for the additional meter replacements needed to complete the project.

Result:

The proposed Capital Improvement Program has been updated to reflect the updated cost increases from Fort Worth, staff will evaluate the impact of adding the AMI project on working capital and future utility rates.

Option 2 – Working Capital in Water Fund

Possibility:

Fund the project over several years from working capital in the Water Fund

Replace a set number of meters each year to get all inventory up to date and AMI compatible (number of meters to be replaced and timeline would be determined based on approved funding for the multi-year program)

Result:

The fund balance over the five-year planning horizon supports a gradual increase in the budget for meter replacements but does not provide sufficient funding for an immediate, full-scale replacement project.

Option 3 – Grant

Possibility:

Pursue a grant (or grants) to fund the entire project or portions of the project.

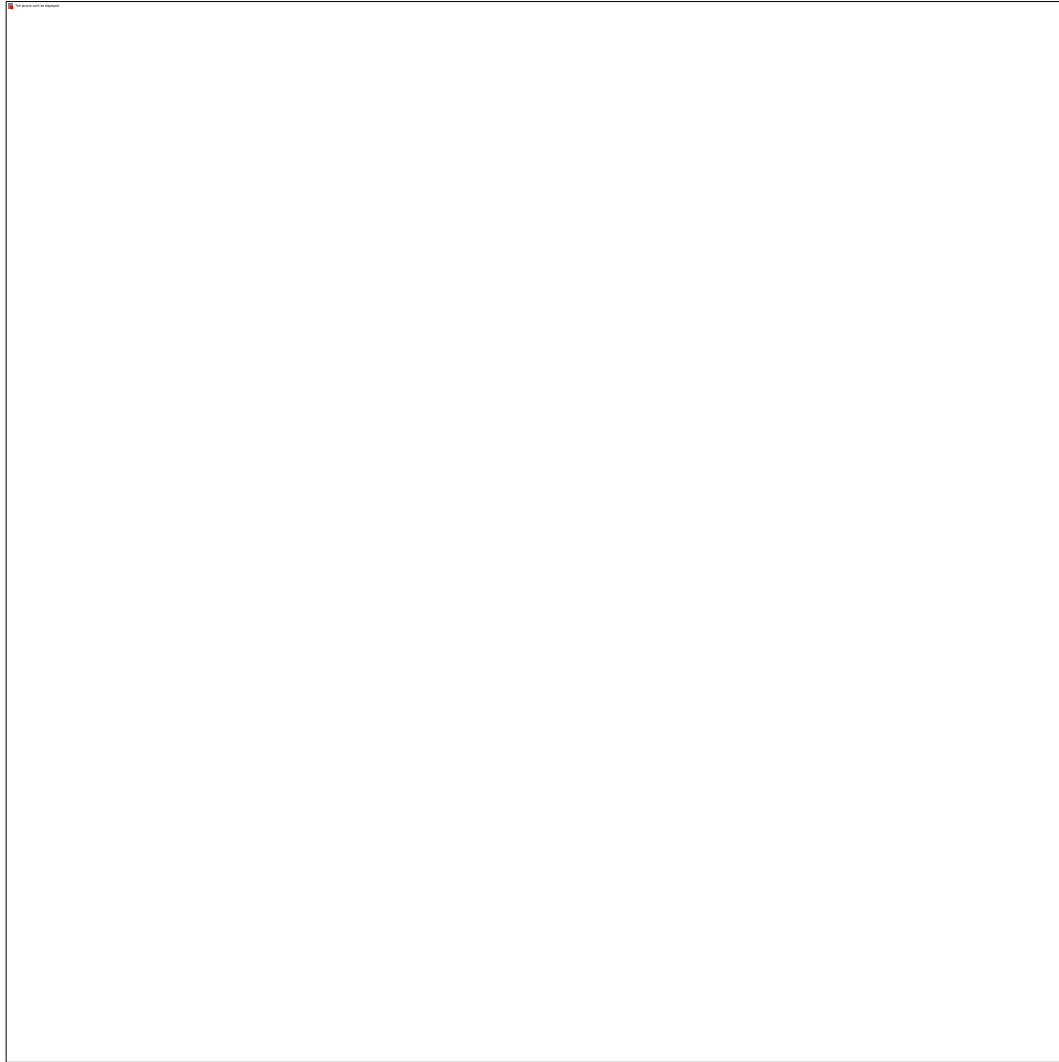
Result:

The Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) grant application process is extensive and requires a significant amount of supporting documentation and reports, making it a time-intensive effort for staff to complete. Adequate time is needed to gather, prepare, and refine all required application materials.

After reviewing the application requirements and considering the low probability of receiving funding, the committee determined that we would not apply during the current funding cycle. Staff plans to begin the process earlier and conduct additional research on the opportunity to better position the organization for a potential application next year. We will also continue to explore other grant opportunities as they arise.

Next Steps

- The FY 2027 budget includes an additional \$201,500 for advanced meter replacement.
- The internal AMI Committee will continue to coordinate with the City Manager's Office and Finance to evaluate options for incorporating the AMI project into the Five-Year Capital Improvement Program or implementing the project in a phased, practical, and cost effective manner.
- Recommendations will consider impacts to working capital and future utility rates. Staff will return to the Infrastructure & Development Committee during FY 2027 with recommendations on the preferred implementation approach and timing.



Questions/ Comments
