



Staff Report

October 20, 2025 Council Workshop Meeting

2026 Fee Schedule Presentation

Presenter: Debra Brooks, Budget Analyst and Cathy Huber Nickerson, Finance Director

Time Estimate: 5 minutes

Phone	Email
360.817.7025	dbrooks@cityofcamas.us
360.817.1537	chuber@cityofcamas.us

BACKGROUND: The City of Camas indexes fees to CPI per the City's municipal code with a few exceptions. The exceptions are based on current circumstances and are reviewed by staff and approved by City Council annually. This presentation will cover the current staff recommendation for the 2026 fees.

SUMMARY: The CPI index 3% for July 2025 is 3% which was applied for the 2026 Fee Schedule with Equipment Rental Rates at 1.2%. Parks and Recreation rates were reassessed by staff and were increased to local market rates. The Parks and Recreation rates were unchanged for several years and are scheduled for full cost recovery analysis in 2027.

BENEFITS TO THE COMMUNITY: The City assesses fees and charges to cover the cost of providing services or programs and regulatory activities. Examples of these fees include:

- Animal licensing
- Recreational programming
- Development and building permits
- Street use permits

The intent of these fees and charges is that be set at a level that recovers all or some of the direct and indirect costs associated with an activity, including administrative overhead.

These fees allow the City to broaden service delivery beyond basic services or provide services which benefit a segment of the community.

The fee schedule itself benefits the community by providing transparency of the fees and charges with an explanation of annual increases.

STRATEGIC PLAN: The City's 2025-2030 Strategic Plan's Economic Prosperity priority has a goal of "Perform a fee analysis study on all fees and identify adequate cost recovery thresholds. The City is on target with the first action for 2025 by preparing a Facilities Fee Analysis Study. This study is underway and will be presented to Council in November.

POTENTIAL CHALLENGES: The potential challenge in the Fee Schedule is finding the balance of cost recovery and market tolerance for the fee structure. Staff is anticipating this challenge by planning to conduct a series of studies internally to determine the appropriate fee and rate structure as part of the City's strategic plan.

BUDGET IMPACT: With the fees index to inflation, the fees should keep in correlation with the expenses the fees intend to cover. The goal is most fees and expenses are budget neutral. There may be certain fees Council may choose to subsidize for the residence depending upon the priority and burden the fees have certain populations.

RECOMMENDATION: Staff will have a resolution for City Council to consider on November 17, 2025.