

MEMO 26-04

TO: Susan Como, City Manager
FROM: James Kowalski, Director of Public Services *J.K.*
DATE: February 24, 2026
SUBJECT: Water Meter Reader Cellular Fees

The Department of Public Works has been working with Badger Meter, Inc. to replace all water meter reading devices (meter heads and transponders) throughout the city's residential home and commercial accounts. The current system is outdated and no longer will be supported in the next couple of years. The new readers are cellular and will not have to use repeater antennas, that are obsolete as well.

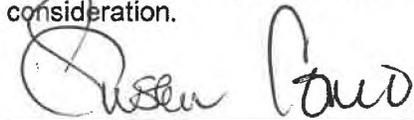
The City will be receiving monthly cellular charges for the new meter readers. The cost is \$0.86 a month per reader and then a one cent increase each year. These charges will be passed to the water customer. There are currently approximately 6,875 water accounts, some of those accounts have multiple readers, bringing the cost to approximately \$7,500.00 per month for cellular fees.

Therefore, I am recommending that Council approve the cellular fees from Badger Meter, Inc., 4545 W. Brown Deer Road, P.O. Box 245036, Milwaukee, WI 53224 in the amount of \$45,000.00 for January 1 through June 30, 2026.

This is not a budgeted item included in 2025/2026 fiscal year budget and will require a budget amendment and transfer from account no. 592-000-692.000, Transfer from prior year Reserve Fund Balance into the Water/Sewer administration contractual services account no. 592-536-818.000.

If you have any questions concerning this matter please contact me.

I do not believe any benefit will accrue to the City by seeking further bids. Approved for Council consideration.

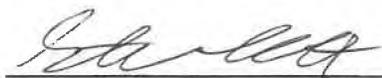


Susan Como, City Manager

Date 2/25/26

Fund Certification:

Account numbers and amounts have been verified as presented.



Steven Schmidt, Treasurer/Comptroller

Date 2/25/26