

# City of Norman

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## **2022 Water and Wastewater Cost of Service Study**

December 20, 2022



Norman's rates and fees must:



# How we'll get there



**Fund Operations**



**Fund Capital Projects**



**Maintain Reserves and DSC**



**Fund Growth**



**Ensure Cost Recovery**



**Financial Plan**



**Cost of Service**

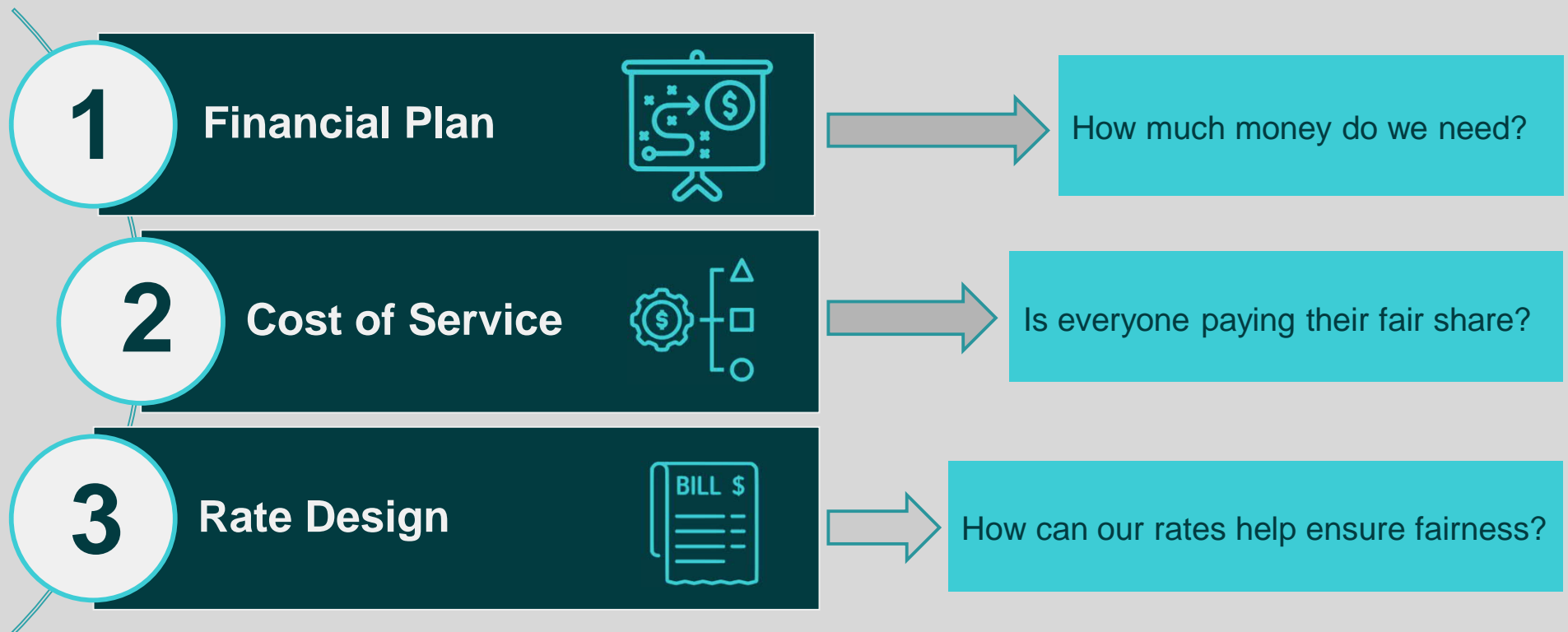


**Rate Design**



**Connection fees**

# Rate study process



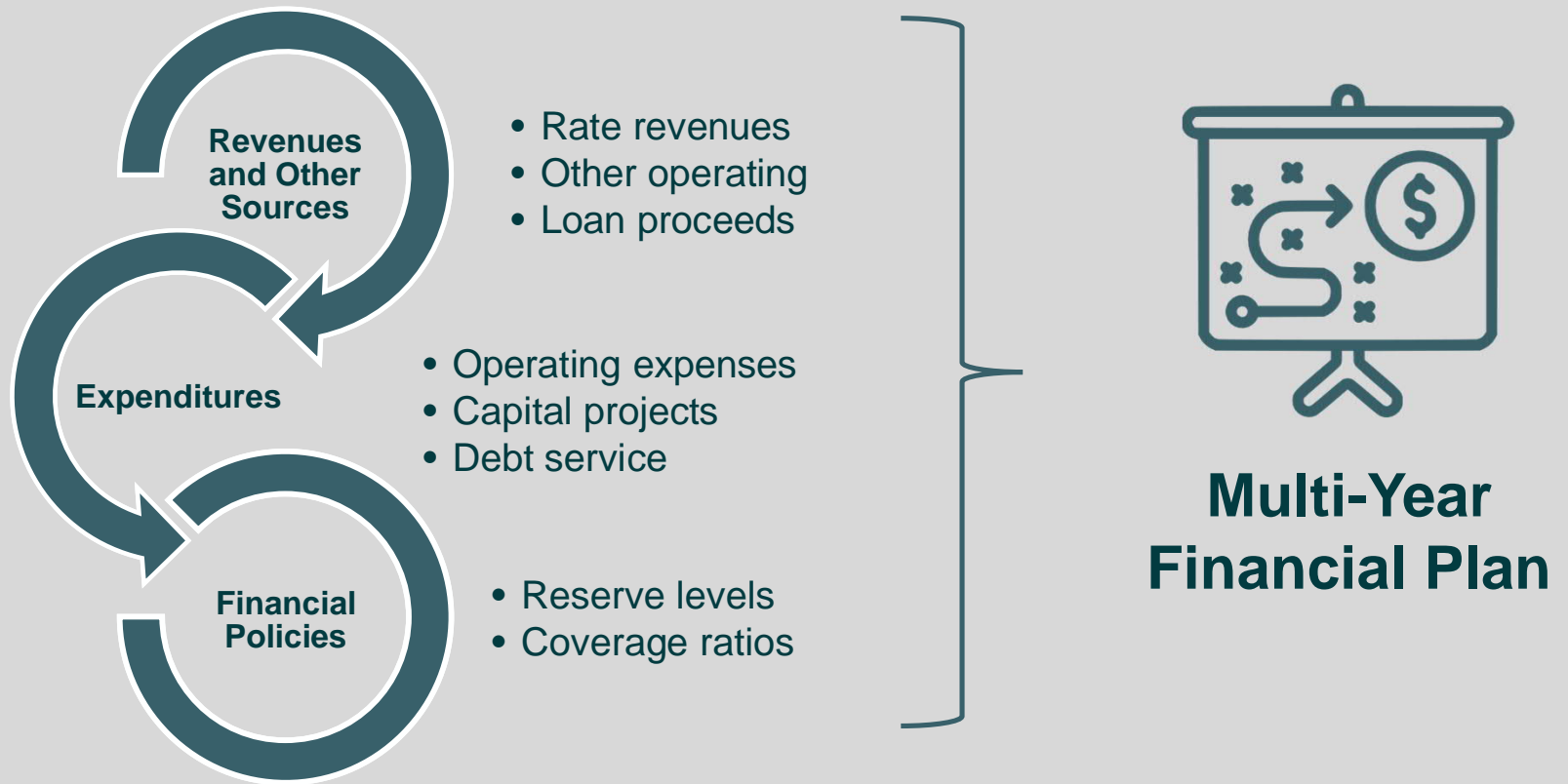
# Financial Plan





# The financial planning process

*What is the revenue required to meet expenditures?*



# Wastewater Utility



# Wastewater utility financial plan assumptions

## Financial metrics

- Operating: 8% of O&M
- Capital reserve: 1-year depreciation expense
- Debt service coverage: 1.25x debt service required; 1.4x desired

## Financial planning scenarios

- Assumes 1.2% growth in accounts
- Assumes flat AWC volumes

## Capital funding

- Initial plan to Cash-finance all capital projects
- Consider Bond financing



- Scenarios are still under review and results presented today are subject to change



# Preliminary sewer financial plan findings

## Current state



- Annual revenue slightly lower than annual O&M, capital and debt expenses

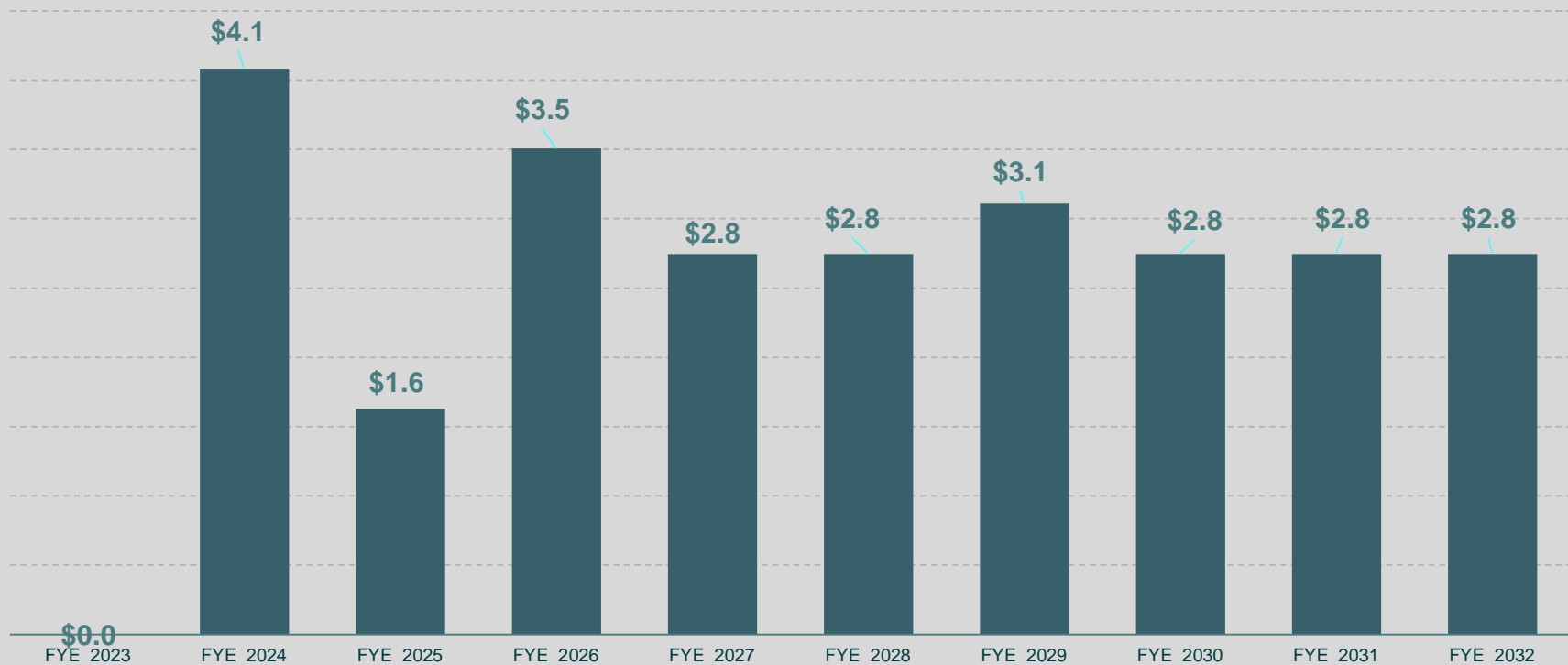


- Near-term: Funding capital with rate revenues



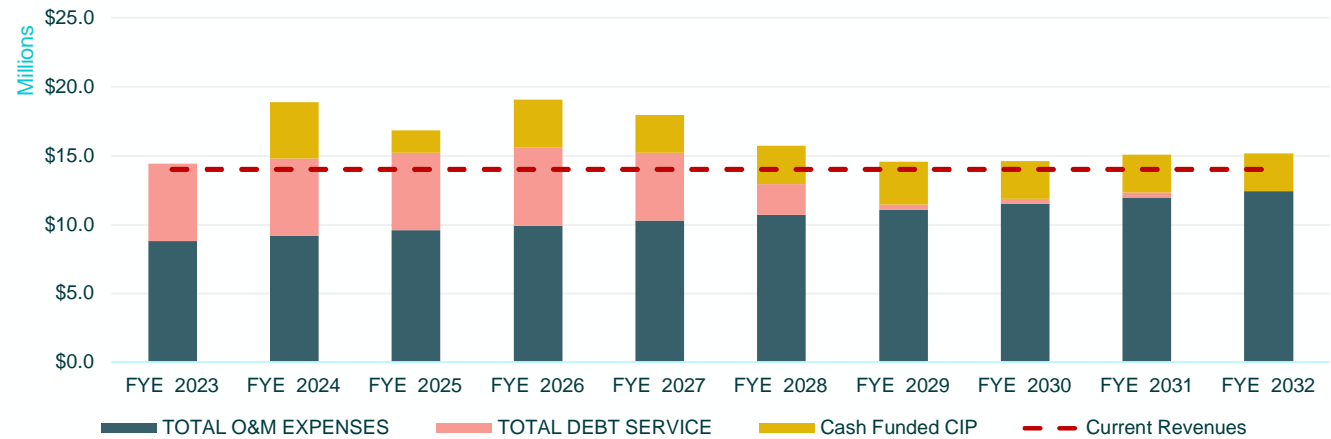
- Longer-term: existing debt maturity will free up financial capacity

# 10-year WRF capital improvement program \$26.1 million

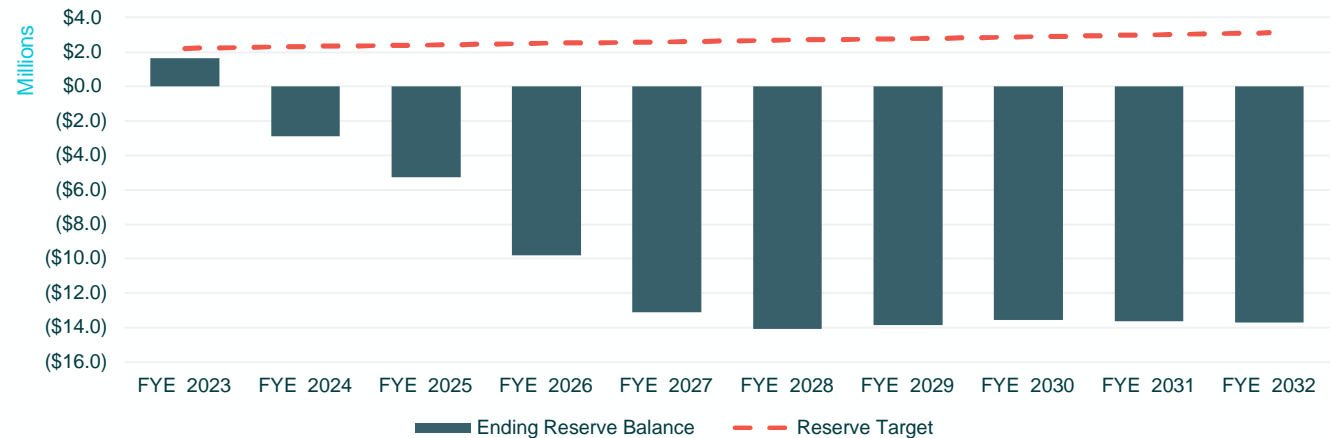


# Wastewater utility – current state

## Revenues and Expenditures

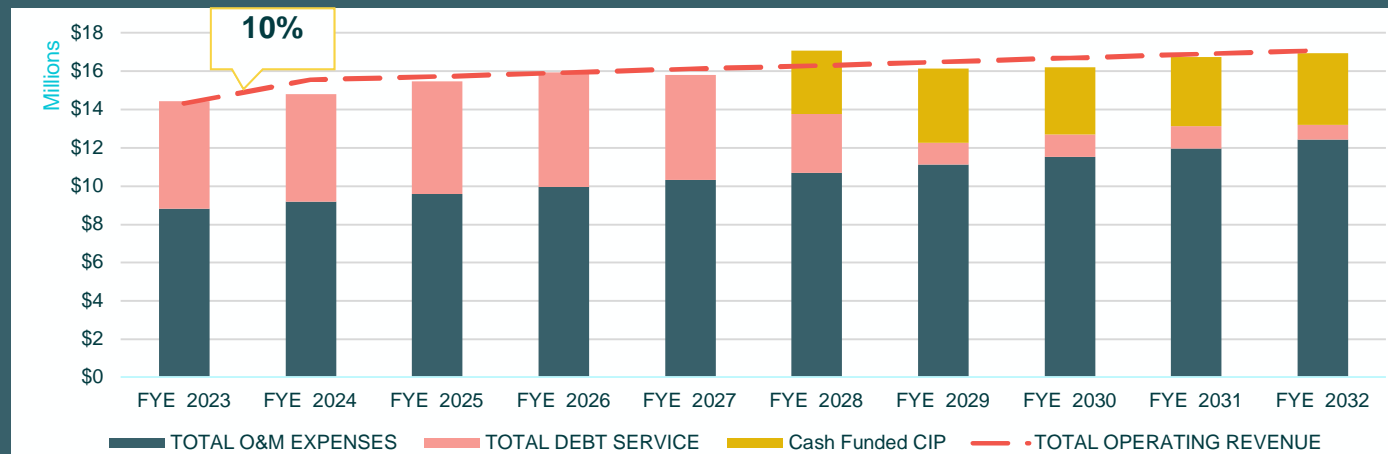


## Ending Balance and Target Reserves

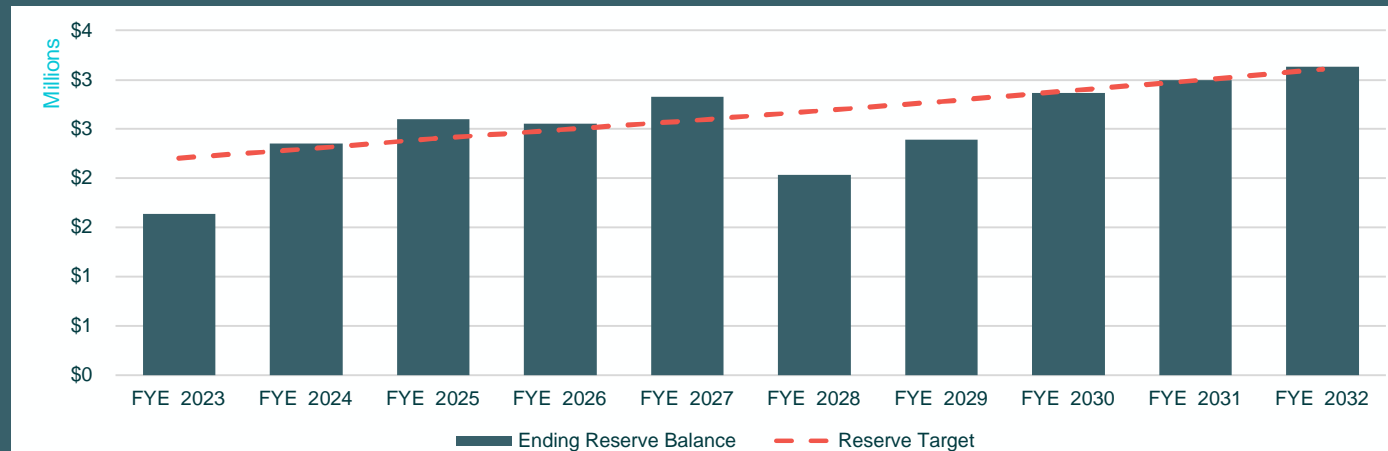


# Wastewater utility – target state

## Revenues and Expenditures



## Ending Balance and Target Reserves



# Water Utility



# Water utility financial plan assumptions

## Financial metrics

- Operating: 8% of O&M
- Capital reserve: 1-year depreciation expense
- Debt service coverage: 1.25x debt service required; 1.4x desired

## Capital funding

- Cash-finance all non-growth related capital projects
- Bond finance growth-related projects
- Connection fee revenue funds growth-related projects
  - Current connection fee is \$1,500 per ¾" water meter

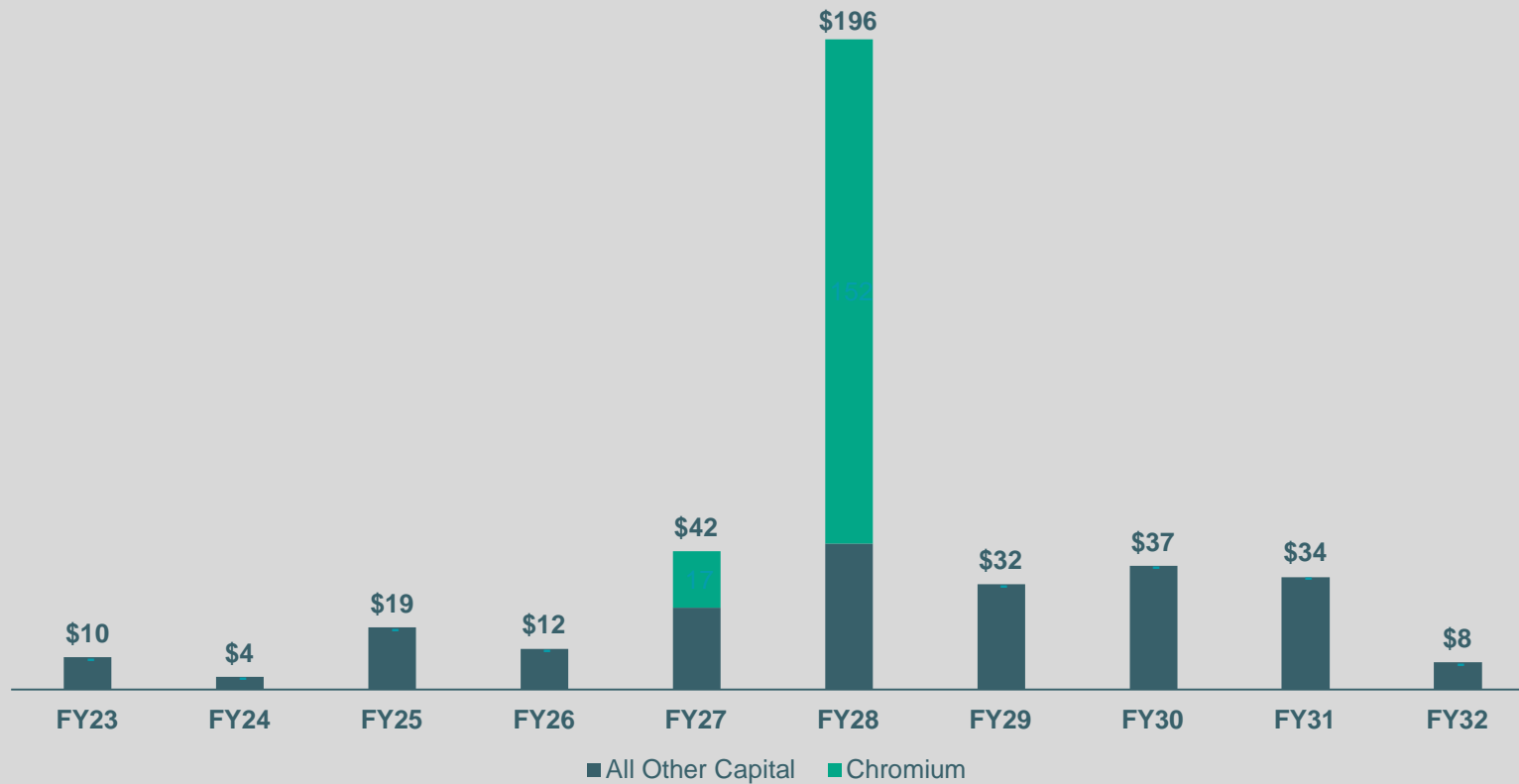
## Financial planning scenarios

- No growth
- Purchase OKC water
- 10 Wells
- Augmentation with \$1,500 per ¾" meter connection fee
- Augmentation with \$3,100 per ¾" meter connection fee<sup>1</sup>



- Scenarios are still under review and result presented today are subject to change

# 10-year water capital improvement program \$394.5 million



# Preliminary water financial plan findings

## Current state



- Annual revenue does not meet annual expenditures



- Does not meet annual debt service coverage requirements

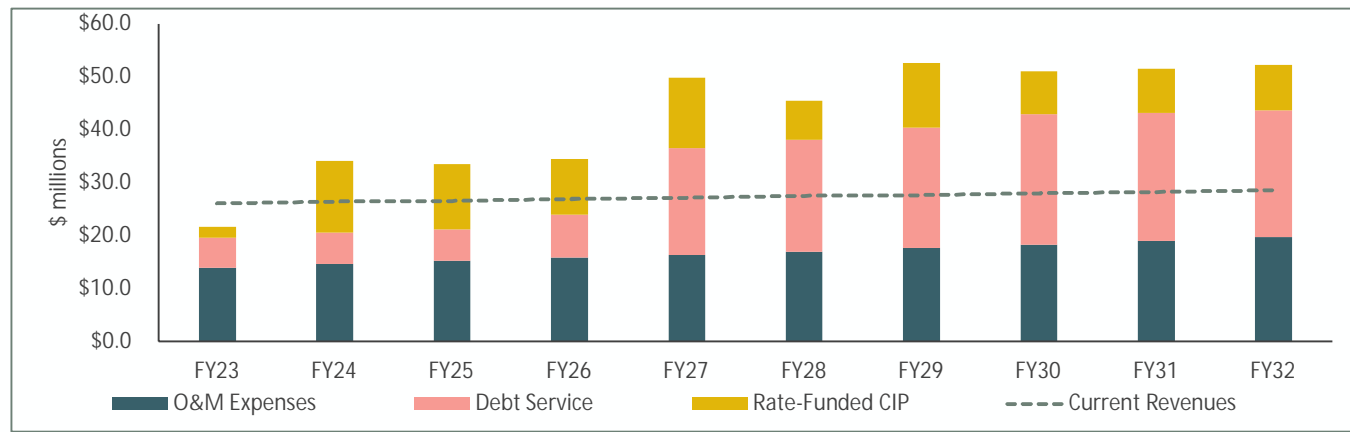


- Does not target operating and capital reserves

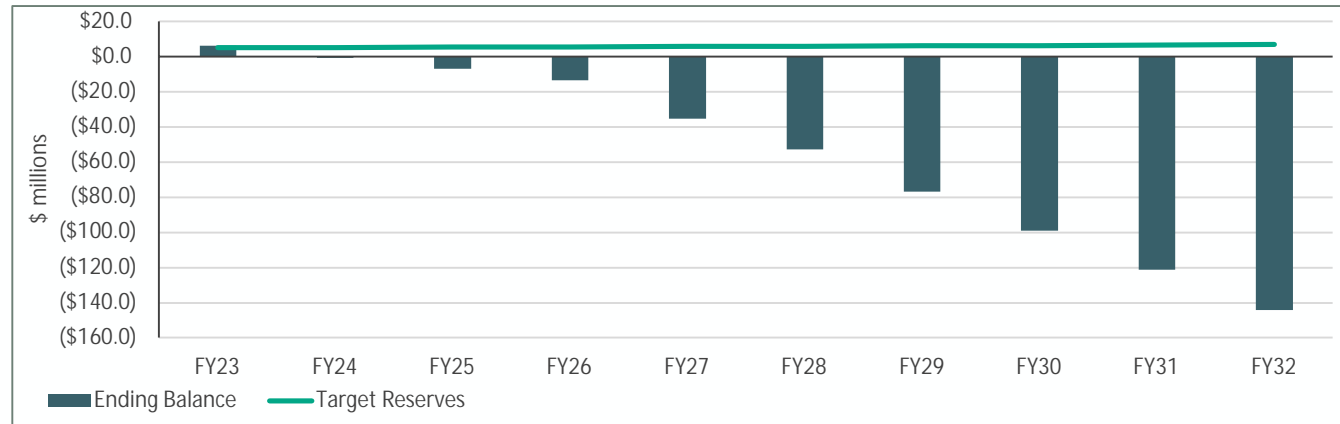


# Water utility – current state

## Revenues and Expenditures



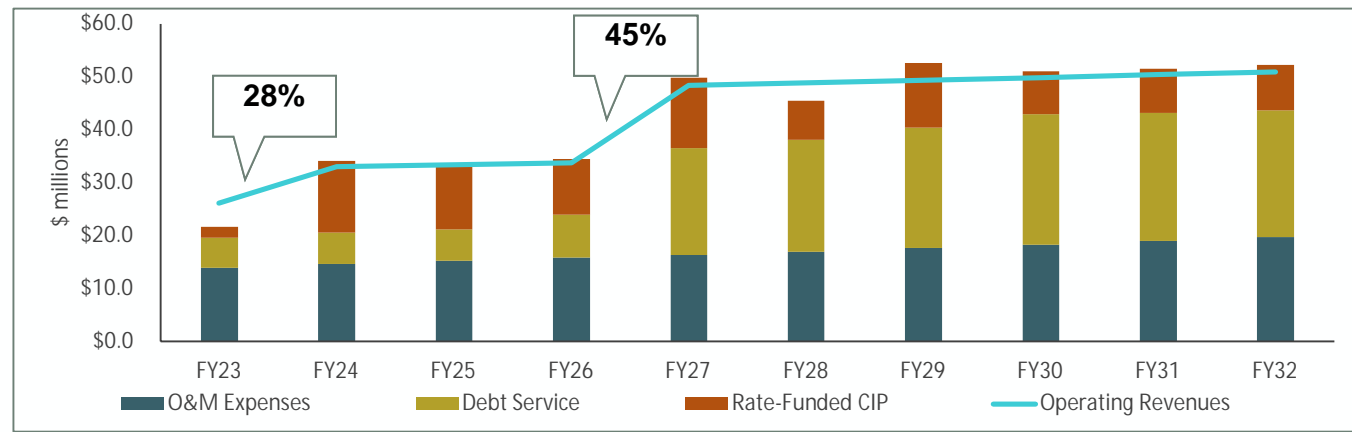
## Ending Balance and Target Reserves



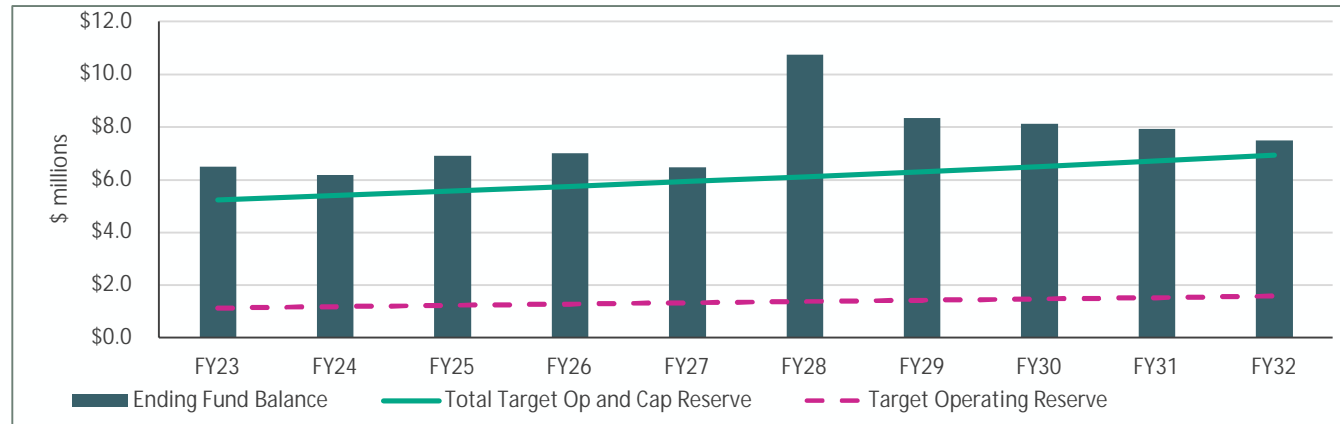
# Scenario 4 target state – Augmentation

Example

## Revenues and Expenditures



## Ending Balance and Target Reserves



# Water utility scenario summary

Scenario*	Revenue Adjustments		Total Connection Fee Revenue	Total Rate Revenue
	FY24	FY27	\$ millions	\$ millions
1: No Growth	28.5%	28.5%	\$0.0	\$370.5
2: OKC	32.5%	32.5%	\$8.5	\$391.8
3: 10 Wells	29.0%	28.0%	\$8.5	\$368.2
4: Augmentation	28.0%	45.0%	\$8.5	\$402.2
5: Augmentation w/\$3,180 connection fee	25.0%	45.0%	\$17.3	\$392.7
<i>*Scenarios 1 - 4 assume a connection fee of \$1,500 per 3/4" meter</i>				

- Biggest influences on revenue adjustments
  - › Timing of project
  - › Project cost and duration
  - › Financing methods (cash, debt, and/or connection fees)

# Cost of Service



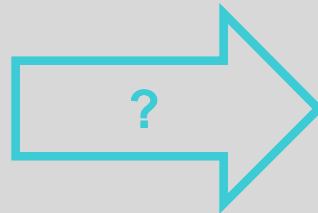


## Step 2: Cost of Service Analysis

*Is everyone paying their proportionate share?*



Revenue  
Requirement



Residential



Commercial

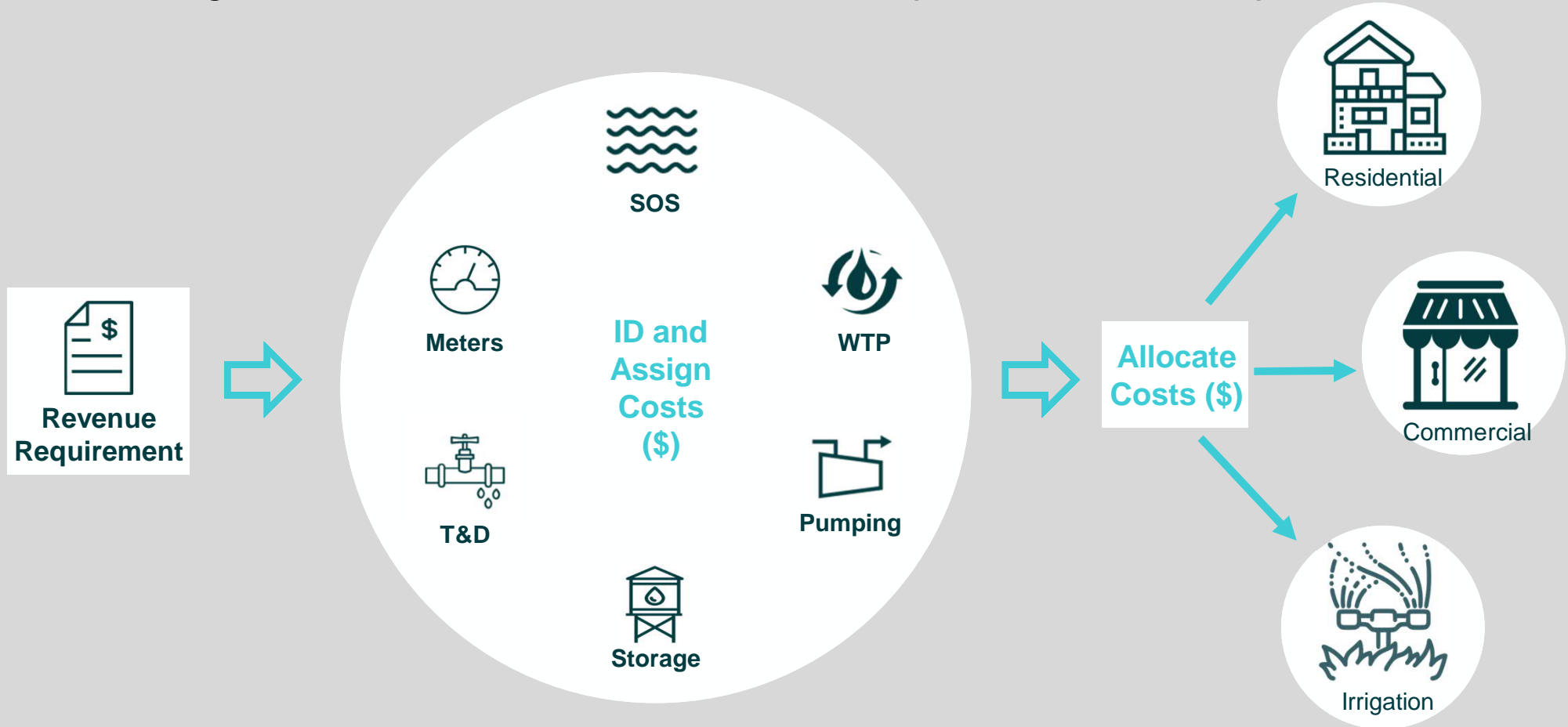


Irrigation



## Step 2: Cost of Service Analysis

*Assign costs to customers based on their specific demand requirements?*



# Rate Design



## Step 3: Incorporating community values in rate design

### *Pricing objectives*



**Revenue stability**



**Cost recovery between classes**



**Cost recovery within a class**



**Cost recovery between existing and new customers**



**Efficient water use pricing signal**



**Demand management**



**Essential use pricing**



**Citizen vote approval**



**Customer impact**



**Ease of administration/implementation**



# Moving forward

**January**

- Finalize water and wastewater cash flow scenarios

**Jan - Feb**

- Complete cost of service analysis to equitable assign costs to customer classes

**February**

- Evaluate rate design alternatives

**February**

- Meeting with City Council to present findings

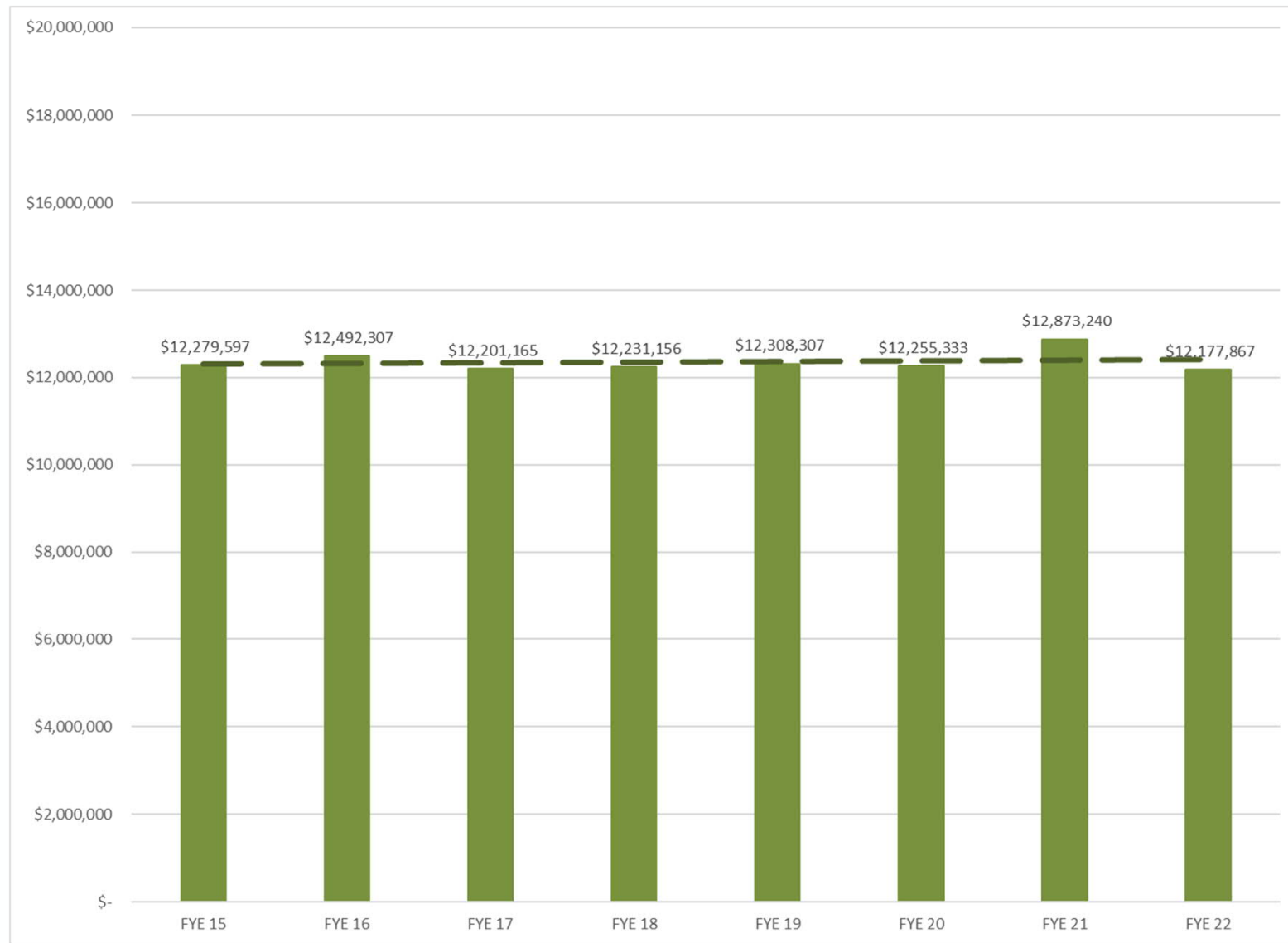


# Thank you!

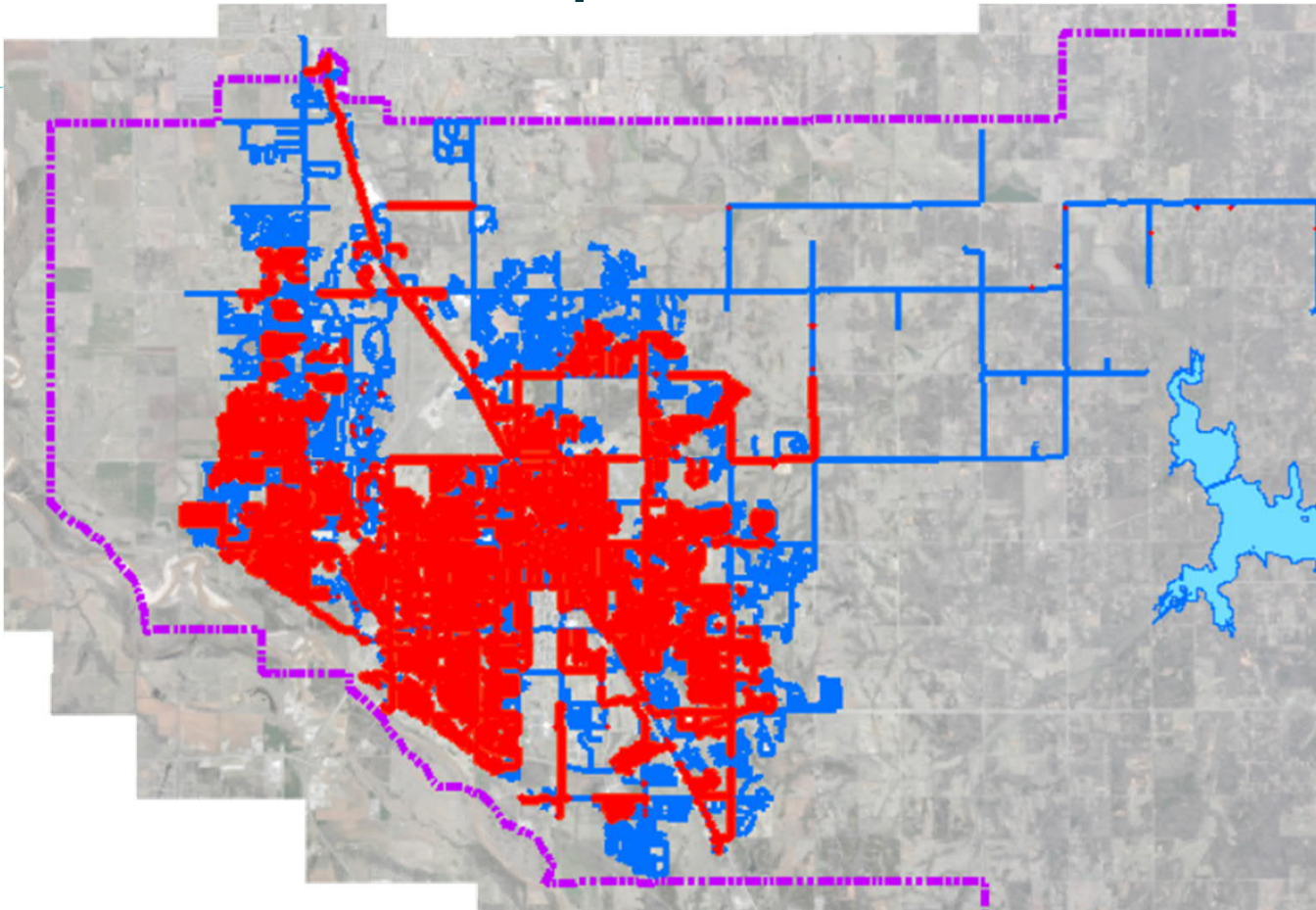
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# WRF Revenue



# Water Line Replacement



Total Water System

640 miles

Metal Lines

300 miles

Replacement  
Cost per Mile

**\$1.05M**

~~\$750,000~~



# Water Fund and Revenue Sources (031)

- Initial/One-Time Charges

- › Meter Installation Fee

← Administratively Updated as Needed – Not Part of COS

- › Connection Fee

← Updated as Part of 2021 Fee Evaluation – Not Part of COS

- Ongoing Charges

- › Base Fee

- › Volumetric Charge (Increasing Block)

← Main Focus of COS

- › Capital Improvement Charge

- Other Miscellaneous Revenues

(Flush Meters, Grants, Cell Contracts, Etc.)

← Not Part of COS

# Wastewater Funds and Revenue Sources

- Water Reclamation Fund (032)

- › Initial/One-Time Charges

- Connection Fee

← Updated as Part of 2021 Fee Evaluation – Not Part of COS

- › Ongoing Charges

- Base Fee

← Main Focus of COS

- Volumetric Charge

- Capital Improvement Charge

- Lift Station Fees (as appropriate) ← Service Area Specific Updated for Inflation– Not Part of COS

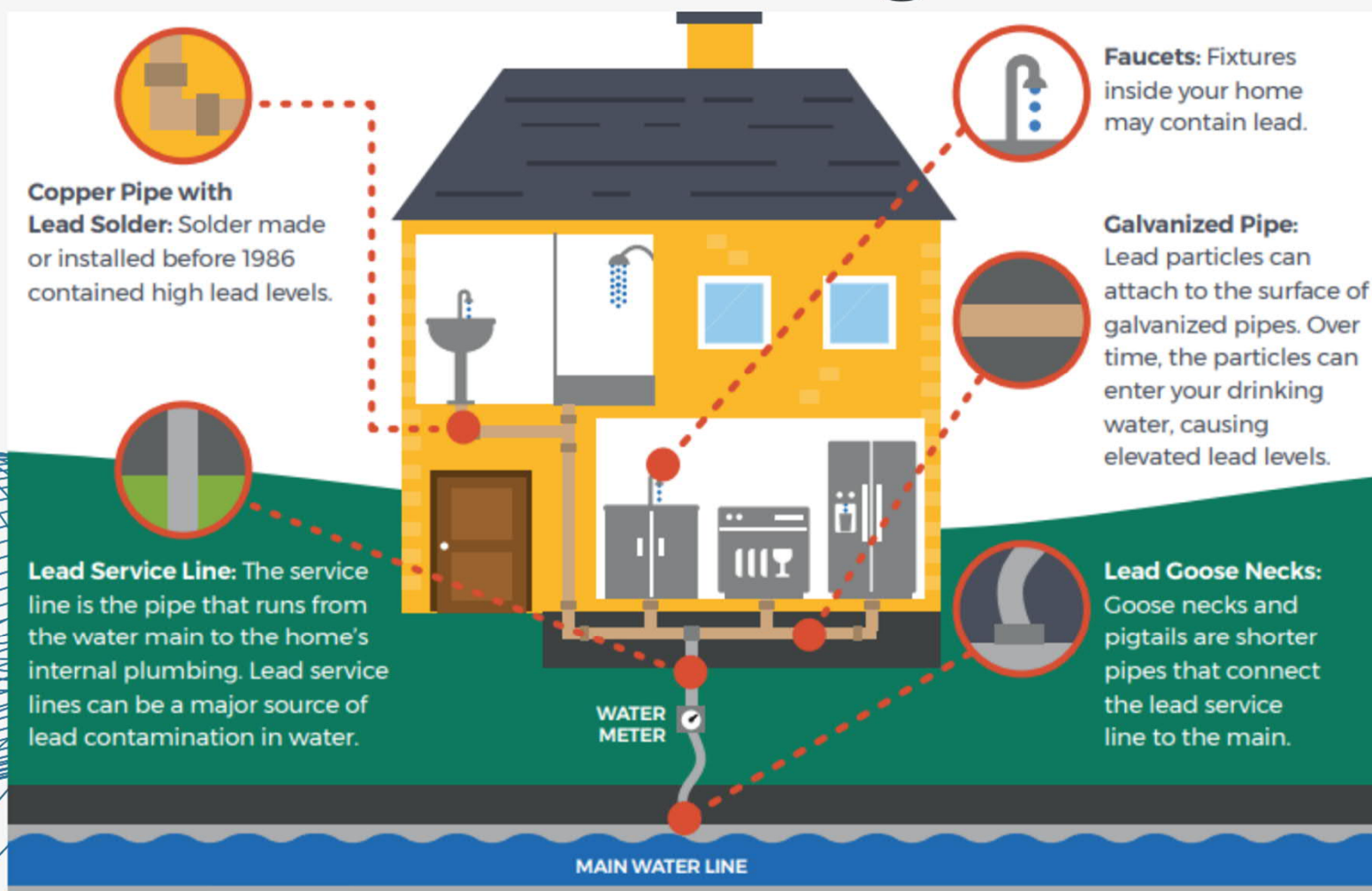
- Sewer Maintenance Fund (321) – Fixed Monthly Charge

← Not Part of COS

- Sewer New Development Fund (322) – Excise Tax

← Updated as Part of 2021 Fee Evaluation – Not Part of COS

# Sources of Lead in Drinking Water





# Groundwater Treatment Plant





# Water Usage

