

# WAUSAU WATER WORKS

Why is there such a  
substantial water rate  
increase?

## REMAINING DEBT

The Wausau Water Works Commission and Wausau City Council approved a plan to build a new drinking water treatment and since 2020 borrowed \$44M in Wisconsin DNR Safe Drinking Water Fund loans to build it. Starting in 2023, the utility must start paying that debt back at about \$2.9M a year. Including the interest that ends up being about \$52.5M total over the life of the loan.

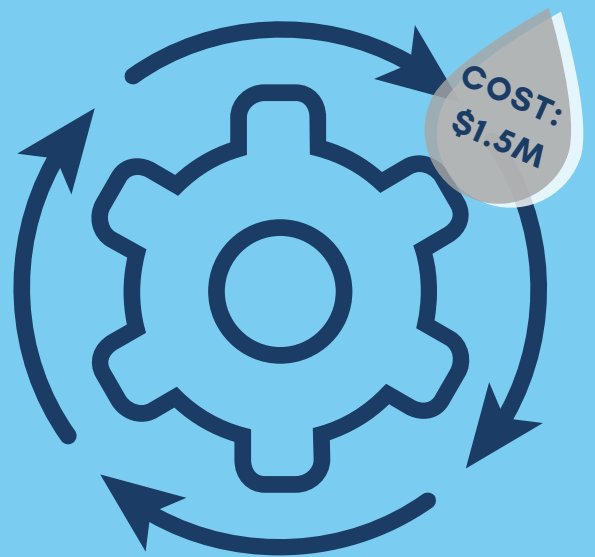


## PERMANENT PFAS REMOVAL

Granular Activated Carbon (GAC) filtration systems reliably remove a variety of elements and compounds from water, including PFAS. Municipal GAC systems for cities the size of Wausau generally cost between \$15M - \$20M.

## INCREASED OPERATIONAL COSTS

Since the 2019 drinking water treatment facility pro forma, operational costs have increased due to employee raises, health insurance premium increases and other benefits, and costs for the utilities, chemicals, and other maintenance requirements.



## CAPITAL PROJECTS

User rates are funding about \$800,000 in capital projects costs for water and sewer street reconstruction, booster station upgrades, water tower maintenance, asset management software, and water main improvement and replacement. We expect between \$3M - \$4M in capital projects to be funded over the next five years.

**AVERAGE COST INCREASE  
TO FAMILIES: \$50 /  
QUARTER**

