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Budget Note NSF Fee Proposal

A budget retreat was held in March of 2023. Council was informed that there is expected to be a deficit in the 2024 Budget. One method of reducing the deficit is for City Council to approve an increase to NSF charges.

Who is paying: Customers who pay the city from an account with nonsufficient funds.

Proposed Increase: <u>Fee to increase from \$15 to 25.</u>

Est. New Annual Revenue (based on 2022 data): Approximately \$600 per year.

Comparative NSF Fees	
Union Gap	\$15.00
Selah	\$20.00
Yakima	\$40.00
Wapato	\$ 25.00 - Checks
	\$50.00 Express Bill pay
Zillah	\$25.00
Granger	\$36.00
Toppenish	\$30.00
Sunnyside	\$20.00
Mabton	\$35.00
Grandview	\$25.00
Prosser	\$20.00
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Average Comparative Fee	\$26.45

A nonsufficient funds (NSF) fee is charged when you write a check against an account that does not have enough money in it to cover it.

Depending on the situation, it can take a great deal of staff time to process the NSF check. The customer is contacted and a letter is sent. Depending on whether there is a timely response or not, the utility account may be affected. If the check is written for another service such as a building permit, the construction may need to be shut down until payment is received. Additional time may also be spent by staff in keeping track of when/whether payment has been made.