



# HEARD IT THROUGH THE GRAPEVINE...

## JANUARY '22

### VILLAGE OF LAWTON'S MASTER PLAN

What exactly is a "Master Plan" you ask? A Master Plan is a statement of a Community's intent about what it wants for its future. It includes statements of purposeful action to carry out the plan, and who's responsible for doing so. A Master Plan serves to guide the overall character, physical form and evolution of a community. It describes where, how, and at what pace a community wants to develop physically, economically, and socially. It provides guidance to local officials when they make decisions about zoning, budgets and capital improvements. A Master Plan looks forward, establishing new visions and directions, setting goals and describing ways to "get there". In short - a Master Plan is like a roadmap to the future. The new master plan for the Village of Lawton will guide the future for growth and development of the community over the next 5-20 years and we would like engage with you and utilize your feedback in the development of plans for the future of Lawton. Please visit this link or scan the QR code below to take our survey and get involved with our community: [tinyurl.com/Lawton-Master-Plan](https://tinyurl.com/Lawton-Master-Plan)

**WE NEED YOUR TWO CENTS**

[tinyurl.com/Lawton-Master-Plan](https://tinyurl.com/Lawton-Master-Plan)

Your voice can help shape future decisions on the community's growth, preservation, and change through a master plan.

### WATER SEWER INCREASE UPDATE

Please review the back page of this letter. It contains important updates on our water and sewer rate increase. As always, any questions or concerns can be directed to the Village of Lawton Clerk's Office at 269.624.6407 or email [leonardm@lawtonmi.gov](mailto:leonardm@lawtonmi.gov).

### VILLAGE HOURS:

**Clerk's Office Hours:**  
M-F 8:00am - 5:00PM

**Library Hours:**  
M-W; F 10:00am - 6:00pm  
Th; Sat-Sun Closed

**Museum Hours:**  
Please call 269.624.5481  
to schedule a tour.

### NEED ASSISTANCE?

Find assistance with rent, food, energy, water and sewer, mortgage and foreclosure counseling and more with the Southwest Michigan Community Action Agency (SMCAA). SMCAA brings together federal and state grant funds and donated dollars from local, private, and public sources. Their core funding is the U.S. Community Services Block Grant (CSBG), and they are required to fulfill a number of Organizational Standards in order to meet funding requirements. This funding, as well as all additional grants and donations, are then directed into a number of core and special programs and services which aid the low income, vulnerable, and otherwise disadvantaged individuals and households residing in Southwest Michigan. Please take a look at their website or give them a call if you are in need:

**Website:** [www.SMCAA.com](http://www.SMCAA.com)

**Phone:** 269.925.9077

**Email:** [contact@smcaa.com](mailto:contact@smcaa.com)



## NOTICE OF WATER AND SEWER RATE INCREASES

At their January 2022 meeting, the Lawton Village Council is scheduled to approve new rates for the Water & Sewer utility systems. These new rates will go into effect with the March 2022 bill. A rate calculator can be found on the Village's website to help you determine your new rates, along with additional information on how the new rates were established.

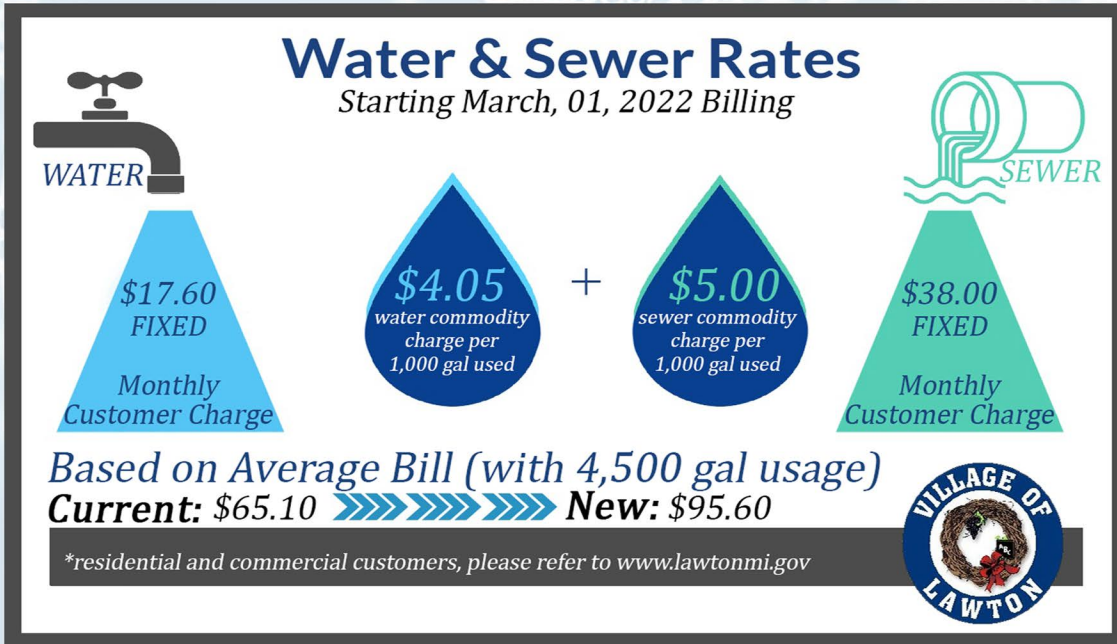
## WHY DID THE WATER & SEWER RATES INCREASE?

Water & Sewer rates, per state law, must be sufficient to cover the cost to operate and maintain the system and complete budgeted capital improvements. As with any business, we have seen an increased cost in operations. Aging infrastructure needs to be maintained/improved to provide safe and efficient service, and funds for future improvements need to be planned. One of the largest contributing factors to the increase is the State unfunded mandate requiring all local water systems to remove any lead or galvanized service lines. This will cost the Village an estimated \$3.5 million over the next 20 years. The Village of Lawton has maintained the same water rates since 2012 at .80 cents per 1,000 gallons used. Until this increase, the Village had the lowest water rates in the State of Michigan. Beginning in March, those costs will increase to \$4.05 per 1,000 gallons used. The average monthly residential water and sewer bill is anticipated to increase around \$30/mo.

The Village is committed to pursue any available State or Federal support that will provide funding for the new lead line replacement mandate and other future infrastructure improvements. With this in mind, we will be reviewing rates each year to determine what rates are required.

## HOW IS MY BILL CALCULATED?

The Village's rate structure is a two-part structure. Both the water and sewer each have a fixed "Readiness-To-Serve" fee, and a "Commodity Fee" for each 1,000 gallons of metered usage (water usage is used to determine sewer usage).



## HOW CAN I REDUCE MY WATER & SEWER BILL?

Customers can reduce their direct water usage by installing water saving toilets, applying a water-saving showerhead, limiting shower and bath time, closing the tap while brushing your teeth, inspecting your home for other plumbing leaks (e.g. sinks, faucets, water heaters, furnace humidifiers, water conditioners, sprinkler systems, etc.), purchasing high-efficiency appliances.



## VILLAGE HALL

125 S Main St  
Lawton, MI 49065  
P: 269.624.6407  
F: 269.624.6408

## VILLAGE MANAGER

Lisa Imus  
imusl@lawtonmi.gov

## COUNCIL MEMBERS

Josh Appleby  
President

Eric Dudek  
President Pro-tem

Gail Dudek

Judy Peterson

Nicole Smith

Ren Turner

Ryan Tanis

Council meets the second Tuesday at 7pm at the Village Hall. Subject to change with COVID-19 restrictions

Planning commission meets  
the first Tuesday at 7pm at the  
Village Hall.

DDA meets the third Wednesday  
at 7pm at the Village Hall.



Find and like us on Facebook!  
@VillageofLawtonMI