

# Watertown Water & Sewer Authority (WSA)

## Understanding Your Water Supply Costs

*(Plain Language Summary of Water Cost Planning, Exhibit A)*

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### Why This Document Matters

The Water & Sewer Authority (WSA) carefully plans each year to estimate the cost of providing water to the community.

This document explains—in simple terms:

- How water costs are estimated
- Why historical data is used
- How this supports stable and responsible planning

The goal is to make technical budget information easier to understand.

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### How Water Costs Are Estimated

Each year, the WSA must estimate how much water the Town will need to purchase.

Rather than relying on a single year, the WSA uses a **multi-year average**.

#### What does that mean?

- The WSA looks at water usage over the past **seven years**
  - It calculates an average amount used per year
  - That average is used to estimate future costs
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### Why Use a Seven-Year Average?

Water usage can change from year to year due to:

- Weather conditions

- Seasonal demand
- Changes in customer usage

Using a seven-year average helps to:

- Smooth out unusual years
- Avoid over- or under-estimating costs
- Reflect typical long-term system demand

**In simple terms:**

It provides a more stable and reliable estimate.

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## **How Water Usage Becomes a Cost**

The process works in three basic steps:

### **1. Estimate Total Water Usage**

Based on the seven-year average

### **2. Convert Usage into Billable Units**

Water is measured and converted into standard units

### **3. Apply the Water Rate**

A set rate is applied to calculate total cost

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## **Example (Simplified)**

- The system uses an average amount of water each year
- That usage is converted into gallons
- A cost is applied per unit of water

This results in an estimated annual cost of:

**Approximately \$1.32 million**

This reflects the projected cost to purchase water for the system.

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## What This Estimate Represents

This estimate:

- Reflects **typical system demand over time**
- Helps support **consistent budgeting**
- Reduces the impact of unusual or extreme years

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## What This Estimate Does Not Include

The projected cost:

- Is based on **usage only**
- Does not include:
  - Billing adjustments
  - Credits or penalties
  - Unexpected events

It is a **planning tool**, not a final or exact number.

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## What This Means for Residents

Using a long-term average helps:

- Keep financial planning stable
- Avoid sudden changes in costs
- Support more predictable rate planning

It ensures that decisions are based on **long-term trends**, not short-term fluctuations.

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## Key Takeaway

- Water cost estimates are based on **long-term average usage**
- This approach improves **accuracy and stability**
- It supports responsible financial planning for the system

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## Learn More

Residents who would like to review the full technical details can refer to:

### **Exhibit A – Projected Water Cost**

Additional materials are available at:

[www.watertownct.org](http://www.watertownct.org)

Departments → Water & Sewer

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## **Final Note**

This summary is part of an ongoing effort to provide clear, accessible explanations of WSA operations and financial planning. The information presented is forward-looking and intended to support transparency, understanding, and informed community engagement.