

UTILITY POLICIES

CITY OF LAKOTA

These Utility Policies are in addition to the Lakota City Ordinance Chapter Fifteen and may be amended by action of the City Superintendent and City Auditor with the approval of the City Council.

1. All customers of the City of Lakota Municipal Utilities shall pay a connection fee of at least \$100.00 prior to or at the time the connections to furnish services are made. In the case of existing service connections being utilized by new customers, such connection fee shall be payable prior to or at the time such service is first furnished.
2. The amount of the connection fee may vary if requested by a landlord, for a prior customer who had proven to be a bad credit risk, or for a business.
3. No utilities will be turned on in rental properties until the former tenant's bill is paid in full either by the tenant or the landlord.
4. The connection fee will be returned after a period of 3 years provided there is no outstanding balance or history of past delinquencies on the account. Should the customer move from the city so is no longer utilizing city utility services, the connection fee may be refunded upon payment in full of the final billing. The connection fee may be credited to the final billing if so requested by the customer.
5. Any customer whose utility services have been discontinued for non-payment shall pay a \$100 reconnect charge plus the total amount due to date on the account prior to reinstatement of such service and such charges shall be in addition to any meter deposit required.
6. It shall be unlawful for any customer, customer's agent or customer's accomplice to remove any seals, break any seals, tamper with any seals on water or electric meters, or tamper with any of the meters connected to the Lakota City Municipal Utilities, and that upon conviction of this section, shall be punished by a fine of \$100.00, as provided for in Chapter 7, Article 2 of the Lakota City Ordinances.
7. The customer is required to purchase a water meter from the Lakota Municipal Utilities. The price depends upon the size of the meter and it is sold to the customer at market price. The customer retains ownership of the meter. There is a \$50.00 disconnect fee charged to a customer should the water service be interrupted. The connecting and/or disconnecting of water meters is to be done by city crew members only.

8. If a current customer should buy an additional property, whether it is residential or business property, another meter deposit is required in the amount specified in paragraph 1.
9. Repairs to water and sewer service lines are the property owner's responsibility. The City owns the main water and sewer service lines and the curb stop.
10. Utility bills are mailed out the last working day of each month. These bills are due upon receipt and are considered delinquent after the last day of the month. Any consumer of Municipal Utilities whose bill(s) remains unpaid after the last day of each month shall then have a penalty assessed of an amount equal to 1.75 per cent of the total utility bill.
11. The City of Lakota shall send a Notice of Delinquency to the consumer of said utilities and to the owner/landlord, where applicable, of the property to which utility services are provided, by the 5th day of the month following the delinquency. Any consumer of utilities whose bill remains unpaid at 10:00 a.m. on the 10th day of the month shall have all municipal services provided under said billing discontinued or disconnected unless payment arrangements have been made.
12. If the utility consumer is a tenant, the property owner/landlord will be sent a copy of the tenant's Notice of Delinquency, at the time said Notice is sent to the consumer, with notification of the date services will be disconnected. If the tenant fails to make the specified payment as of the disconnect date, said owner/landlord will be responsible for payment of the utilities by that date.