

MEMORANDUM

TO: City Council

FROM: Alfred D. Lott, City Manager

SUBJECT: Water Filter Rebates

DATE: June 3, 2021

Due to the condition of water mains in the City's water utility, some water customers experience periodic incidents of discolored water in their homes. The discoloration comes from small iron particles that sometimes become suspended in the otherwise clean water due to occurrences of turbulence in the water mains. The problem is explained on the City's web site and is being address through a long-term capital program to replace or line the water mains.

In response to information requests from City Council, staff examined filters that may be used in homes to address the discoloration problem. A wide variety of filter systems exists and varied costs. A summary of the findings is attached.



The Public Works Department does not recommend that the City specify a particular filter to residents since this filter would be installed within the privately owned plumbing inside the home and privately maintained. However, if Council decides to offer Bowie water customers financial support for house water filters, a rebate program is recommended as an option to City selected and provided filters. The rebate could be provided to Bowie water customers that present evidence of paid invoices for water filter installations. A one-time \$50.00 maximum rebate is recommended. The rebate program, if adopted by Council, would be funded from the water/sewer reserve for contingencies funds.

I concur with the above recommendation.

ADL/BHM/GS/HY/

House Water Filter Systems Summary

Residential water filter systems can be effective in removing the sediment that causes discolored water that sometimes occurs in the Bowie water distribution system. The below table provides some general information on residential filters.

Option	Cost Range	Comments
<p>Under counter in line filter</p>  <p>A photograph of an under-counter in-line water filter. The filter is a blue cylindrical unit mounted under a kitchen sink. It is connected to the water supply lines via two small valves. A white faucet is visible above the sink.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • System Cost (casing and cartridge filter): \$30 - \$60 • Filter media replacements: \$20-\$50 • Installation: may be homeowner installed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Typically used for cold water supply only. Most have. • Provides filtration for only a single fixture.
<p>Whole house filter</p>  <p>A photograph of a whole house water filter. The filter is a white cylindrical unit with a handle on the side, mounted on a wall. It is connected to the main water supply lines via copper pipes and valves. A hand is shown pulling the handle to access the filter.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • System Cost: \$35 - \$1000+ • Filter media replacements: \$20-\$100 • Installation: ~\$1000, assuming average plumbing mods by hired plumber. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wide range of products, offering different flow rates and filtering capability. • Installation likely requires modification to house plumbing.