

Sec. 58-42 Budget Billing payment plan

- (a) A customer may apply to participate in an optional payment plan, designed to make monthly bills more equal throughout the year. Under this plan the customer will be charged each month for actual consumption, including any adjustments, but will pay the budget amount each month and then settle up their account at the end of the year or when they finalize their account. The budget amount is based upon the past 12 months billing history. It is not intended to be used to defer payment of delinquent bills.
- (b) Eligibility requirements:
- (1) An applicant for budget billing must meet certain qualifications. All applications are subject to city approval. The budget payment plan will be available only to residential customers. A customer can be budgeted on one service or more services without being budgeted on all services. Budget billing can only occur on consumption type services. Flat or Other services are not eligible for budget billing.
 - (2) Customers must have a minimum of 12 months of continuous service on City of Lockhart utilities only to be eligible. This may have been attained at one or more addresses within the city's billing service area, and applies only to the customer's primary residence. A customer transferring from one address to another address may continue to participate.
 - (3) To be eligible, customers who make application to be on Budget Billing must not have had any of their service(s) disconnected during the preceding twelve (12) months for non-payment or must not have had any insufficient funds check returned during the preceding twelve (12) months. Applicant must also have maintained a good utility payment history with no more than one (1) late payment within the preceding twelve (12) months and no previous balance on their account. They must also not be facing or subject to bankruptcy proceedings.
 - (4) A customer who is already on Budget Billing and whose service is disconnected for non-payment, or who has more than one (1) late payment, or who submits an insufficient funds check during their enrollment period on the program, shall be removed from Budget Billing. Any amounts due will be subject to immediate collection. Such customers may then become eligible for re-enrollment after establishing a good pay history and meeting the eligibility requirements to participate in this plan.
 - (5) A customer may voluntarily discontinue their participation in budget billing and revert to regular billing at any time. Upon discontinuation, the customer is ineligible to apply for re-enrollment in budget billing for a minimum of 12 months and meeting the eligibility requirements.
 - (6) A customer who terminates services entirely, and reconnects at a future date is also ineligible for re-enrollment in budget billing for a minimum of 12 months and meeting the eligibility requirements.

- (f) If a customer on budget billing experiences a rate classification change, such as from residential to commercial or industrial, they will be discontinued from the program as budget billing applies only to single residential service. The account will then be adjusted as described in subsection (c) (2) of this section. No cash refunds will be made for any credit accrued unless the customer discontinues receiving service and the account is finalized.
- (g) Budget billing accounts shall be subject to the same rules, rates, charges, fees, penalties, and policies established by the city as regular utility customer accounts.

BUDGET BILLING APPLICATION

**I HAVE READ THE ABOVE AND WISH TO APPLY FOR ENROLLMENT
IN THE BUDGET BILLING PAYMENT PLAN.**

NAME _____

ACCOUNT # _____

SERVICE ADDRESS _____

SIGNATURE _____

DATE _____