

# Compensation of Professional Plumbers

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Policy approved and implemented by the City Council on October 7, 2009

**INTRODUCTION:** Professional plumbers can provide an added layer of inspection of the city sewer system and protection for the city's property owners. Plumbers are usually the first people contacted when property owners and tenants suspect problems with their sewers (i.e. backups, blockages, slow flows, etc.) These service calls can complement current and future inspection and maintenance efforts by city employees to minimize and eliminate the occurrences of sewer main blockages.

The City recognizes this as a valuable benefit to the city's property owners and tenants. To that effect, it will be the policy of the City of Sarcoxie to compensate professional plumbers up to Sixty Dollars (\$6000) per event when they are called for service and determine that the source of the problem is the city's sewer distribution system. The following guidelines will apply to qualify for a city paid service call.

1. **Inspect the Manhole as a First Step in Troubleshooting.** Upon arrival to the property, the plumber should do an initial inspection of the nearest manhole downstream of the property to ensure there is proper flow. This inspection should be performed before any other cost bearing activities are performed.
2. **Contact a City Representative.** If it is determined that the cause of the service call is likely due to a problem with the sewer main, the plumber must promptly contact a city official to advise them of the situation. For purposes of this policy, a city official is any elected official, a Sarcoxie Police Officer, or a Public Works employee. The call should clearly state the location and description of the problem, and a phone number that the plumber can be reached.
3. **Inform the Property Owner** that the problem appears to be caused by the city's sewer distribution system before any additional cost bearing activities are performed.

## **Qualifiers and Restrictions:**

1. One service call per blockage incident – even if multiple properties are affected by the same blockage.
2. At the discretion of the public works employee, or elected official, the city can request the plumber perform additional work to correct the sewer main issue. It is understood that an additional fee for this service will be applicable for the city to cover.

3. The city will not be responsible for any additional costs associated with the service call unless pre-approved by an elected official or a public works employee.
  - a. If it is the opinion of involved parties that the blocked sewer main has resulted in obstructions in the property owner's service line, the City Council will consider additional compensation to the plumber or property owner to clear the blockage in the service line.
4. Bill for this service must be submitted to City Hall and approved by the Council at the next council meeting under the category of unpaid bills. The bill should include date of service, who and when originally contacted the plumber, what was found upon arrival, and who and when plumber contacted the city representative.

The intent of this policy is to provide benefits and safeguards for all effected parties. For the plumber it will ensure compensation for a valuable service without a large outlay of time, effort, or expense. For the city, it will provide an additional safeguard in ensuring an adequately performing sewer distribution system. Most importantly, for the property owner or tenant it will minimize or eliminate the expense of a service call if the problem is found to be with the city's sewer distribution system as opposed to the privately-owned service line.