



# THE CASE FOR 8

SAFE STREETS, STRONGER COMMUNITY  
INVESTING IN OUR COMMUNITY, PROTECTING OUR FUTURE



Commonly  
Asked  
Questions &  
Answers



## What is the “Case for 8”?

The “Case for 8” is the City’s initiative to increase the number of sworn officers from 40 to 48, aiming to enhance the safety and well-being of everyone who lives, works, and plays in our community.

In recent years, we’ve consistently heard concerns about the perception that Fort Dodge is unsafe and the need for additional police officers. The need for additional police officers is something both the community and City officials agree on.

Currently, Fort Dodge falls behind similar-sized cities in terms of the number of officers. By adding these eight officers, we’ll align more closely with comparable municipalities, providing more dedicated staff to address ongoing criminal activity and improve overall safety.

Fort Dodge residents have made their desire to vote on this crucial issue known and a special election is set for September 10, 2024.

- August 21, 2024 Absentee Voting begins in the Webster County Auditor's Office, 701 Central Ave, Fort Dodge
- August 26, 2024 Last Day to Request an Absentee Ballot by Mail & Last Day to Pre-Register to Vote
- September 9, 2024 Last Day to Absentee Vote in person
- September 10, 2024 Election Day; Polls are open 7 A.M. - 8 P.M.

Residents may vote at any of the following locations:

- First Covenant Church 201 Avenue H, Fort Dodge
- Fort Dodge City Hall 819 1st Ave S, Fort Dodge
- FDCSD Central Office 109 N 25th St, Fort Dodge



# What's this going to cost me?

The franchise fee would be an extra cost that goes beyond what our tax-supported Police Department already covers. Tax money that the City collects goes toward a lot of different things - roads, parks, public services, you name it. It's a lot to cover, and there's only so much to go around, even more so now that the state has made legislative changes that directly impact traditional funding sources.

We've been hearing loud and clear from residents and businesses that they want all of Fort Dodge to be safe. This allows us to achieve this collective goal.

The franchise fee is a way to generate additional revenue specifically for our police department without having to rely on already stretched tax dollars. It ensures we can focus on making all of Fort Dodge safe without taking away from other important services and projects.

For the average home, the monthly increase would be about \$4.82 for electricity and \$1.08 for natural gas based on current bills. So, in total, it's around **\$5.90 a month**. These fees would only apply to **MidAmerican Energy customers**. The estimated annual revenue from the fee is \$1.8 million. 100% of those dollars would be used to cover the increase of wages, training, insurance and equipment costs necessary to boost the Fort Dodge Police Department from 40 to 48 sworn officers.

## IMPACT ON THE AVG ELECTRIC BILL

Current Rates: RS Residential Summer		Proposed Rates: RS Residential Summer	
<b>Supply and Delivery</b>		<b>Supply and Delivery</b>	
<b>\$120.45</b>		<b>\$120.45</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Basic Service Charge \$10.00</li> <li>▶ Energy Charge 500 X 0.10575 \$52.88</li> <li>▶ Energy Adjustment Clause 500 X 0.01103 \$55.15</li> <li>▶ Transmission Cost Adjustment 500 X 0.00321 \$1.61</li> <li>▶ Energy Efficiency Charge 500 X 0.00164 \$0.82</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Basic Service Charge \$10.00</li> <li>▶ Energy Charge 500 X 0.10575 \$52.88</li> <li>▶ Energy Adjustment Clause 500 X 0.01103 \$55.15</li> <li>▶ Transmission Cost Adjustment 500 X 0.00321 \$1.61</li> <li>▶ Energy Efficiency Charge 500 X 0.00164 \$0.82</li> </ul>	
<b>Taxes and Fees</b>		<b>Taxes and Fees</b>	
<b>\$1.20</b>		<b>\$6.02</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ 1.00% Local Option Tax \$1.20</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ 5.00% Electric Franchise Fee \$6.02</li> </ul>	
<b>Total</b>		<b>Total</b>	
<b>\$121.65</b>		<b>\$126.47</b>	

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**MIDAMERICAN ENERGY COMPANY.**

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## IMPACT ON THE AVG GAS BILL

Current Rates: SVS Residential		Proposed Rates: SVS Residential	
<b>Supply and Delivery</b>		<b>Supply and Delivery</b>	
<b>\$27.08</b>		<b>\$27.08</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Basic Service Charge \$10.00</li> <li>▶ Gas Supply Charge 18 X 0.54945 \$9.89</li> <li>▶ Meter Class 1 Charge \$4.50</li> <li>▶ Delivery Charge 18 X 0.13696 \$2.47</li> <li>▶ Energy Efficiency Charge 18 X 0.01226 \$0.22</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Basic Service Charge \$10.00</li> <li>▶ Gas Supply Charge 18 X 0.54945 \$9.89</li> <li>▶ Meter Class 1 Charge \$4.50</li> <li>▶ Delivery Charge 18 X 0.13696 \$2.47</li> <li>▶ Energy Efficiency Charge 18 X 0.01226 \$0.22</li> </ul>	
<b>Taxes and Fees</b>		<b>Taxes and Fees</b>	
<b>\$0.27</b>		<b>\$1.35</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ 1.00% Local Option Tax \$0.27</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ 5.00% Gas Franchise Fee \$1.35</li> </ul>	
<b>Total</b>		<b>Total</b>	
<b>\$27.35</b>		<b>\$28.43</b>	

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## I don't use police services much. What's in it for me?

There's a lot in it for everyone, including you. Public investment, like funding for police, infrastructure, and community services, is crucial for stimulating private investment and generating tax revenue. It creates a beneficial cycle for the whole community.

It starts with the government investing in public goods and services like roads, police forces, and parks. These investments make our community more attractive and livable. Businesses are more likely to invest here when the community looks good and has a solid infrastructure. They want good roads, skilled workers, and, as we've repeatedly heard, safe neighborhoods. When their needs are met, they open new businesses or expand existing ones.

New businesses create jobs, which means more people have money to spend locally. This boosts the local economy and benefits a wide range of companies. That leads to higher tax revenues for the government without raising tax rates. It happens through sales taxes, property taxes as property values increase, and income taxes from new jobs.

The government reinvests it in more public projects, continuing the cycle. This could mean better roads, improved public services, or new community projects. This keeps making our community a better place to live and work.

It's a continuous cycle of improvement. Public investment leads to private investment, which drives economic growth and job creation. This growth results in more tax revenue, which can be reinvested into the community. It's a sustainable model for long-term prosperity and improvement.

**It's not just about needing more police; it's about creating a better community overall.** Public investment is a crucial driver of sustainable economic development. It benefits everyone, even if you don't always use the services.

