

Note added by Michigan Plate Readers. Our message on the City's NextRequest portal on request 26-2231, posted October 23, 2026, 1:09 pm: five questions on the fee estimate and deposit invoice of October 22. Text as posted. End of note.

Thank you for the estimate and the deposit invoice of October 22, 2026 on request 26-2231. Before I pay the deposit I have five questions about the itemization, so that I can narrow the request if that would reduce the work.

1. The estimate charges 1.5 hours of search, locating and examining at \$114.41 an hour, and the lines beside that rate for the labor type and the "Other Hourly Rate" are blank. What role's hourly wage is \$114.41, and what multiplier was applied to it? MCL 15.234(1)(a) provides that the public body "shall not charge more than the hourly wage of its lowest-paid employee capable of searching for, locating, and examining the public records in the particular instance regardless of whether that person is available or who actually performs the labor."
2. The request asked for the labor estimated for each numbered item. Which items account for the 1.5 hours, and how much time is estimated for each?
3. The estimate does not state the finding MCL 15.234(3) requires before search, examination and separation labor is charged: that "failure to charge a fee would result in unreasonably high costs", with a statement that "specifically identifies the nature of these unreasonably high costs". Has the Department made that finding for this request, and if so, what is it?
4. My request asked for a public-interest fee waiver under MCL 15.234(2). The estimate and the invoice do not mention it. Has the waiver been decided?
5. The portal closed the request on October 22 until the deposit is paid. When the deposit is paid, does the request keep its number, 26-2231, and its original receipt date?

Thank you for your help with this.

Chance Ackley-Smith