



Fees and Surcharges

- **911** – This charge is imposed by local governments to help pay for emergency services such as fire and rescue.
- **Federal Excise Tax** – This is a three percent tax mandated by the federal government (not the Federal Communications Commission (FCC)). It is imposed on all telecommunications services, including local, long distance, and wireless.
- **Federal Access Charge** – This was instituted after the breakup of AT&T in 1984 to cover the costs of the local phone network. This charge may appear as "FCC Charge for Network Access," "Federal Line Cost Charge," "Interstate Single Line Charge," "Customer Line Charge," or "FCC-Approved Customer Line Charge." The FCC caps the maximum price that a company may charge for this. This is not a government charge or tax, and it does not end up in the government's treasury.
- **Local Number portability Charge (LNP)** – The FCC allows local telephone companies to recover certain costs for providing "telephone number portability" to its customers. This charge provides residential and business telephone customer with the ability to retain, the same location, their existing local telephone numbers when switching from one local telephone service provider to another. This is a fixed monthly charge. Local telephone companies may continue to assess this charge on their customers' telephone bills for five years from the date the local telephone company first began itemizing the charge on the bill. This is not a tax.
- **State & Local Municipal Tax** – This charge is imposed by state, and local municipal governments on goods and services. It may also appear as a "gross receipt" tax in some states.
- **(State) Subscriber Line Charge** – This charge is mandated by some states' public service or utility commissions to compensate the local phone company for part of the cost of providing local telephone lines associated with state services, i.e., intrastate long distance and local exchange services.
- **Telecommunications Relay Services Charge** – This state charge helps to pay for the relay center which transmits and translates call for the hearing impaired people.
- **Carrier Service Fee** - This is a fee for each telephone line that is PIC'd with VAST Long Distance Service and will be billed under Fees and Surcharges. This Carrier Service Fee helps VAST cover administrative expenses for national and local regulatory fees and programs, as well as connection and account servicing charges.



- **Universal Service Fund (USF) (Also called the Universal Connectivity Fee)** – Because telephones provide a vital link to emergency services, to government services and to surrounding communities, it has been our nation's policy to promote telephone service to all households since this service began in the 1930s. The USF helps to make phone service affordable and available to all Americans, including consumers with low incomes, those living in areas where the costs of providing telephone service is high, schools and libraries and rural health care providers. Congress has mandated that all telephone companies providing interstate service must contribute to the USF. Although not required to do so by the government, many carriers choose to pass their contribution costs to their customers in the form of a line item, often called the "Federal Universal Service Fee" or "Universal Connectivity Fee."
- **What are regulatory fees?** - Regulatory fees are distinct from application fees, which are authorized in 47 U.S.C. §158. Application fees cover the FCC's costs related to licensing communication service providers. This includes activities such as issuing permits, testing applicants, certifying licenses, authorizing transfers, assigning or transferring call signs, and adjudicating disagreements.
- **Broadcast TV Surcharge** - Under the Federal Retransmission Consent Provision of the 1992 Cable Act, cable providers must pay broadcasters to transmit programming to their cable customers.
- **Copyright Surcharge Fee** - The Federal Government requires Vast Broadband to pay fees to the Copyright Tribunal to obtain a copyright license in the course of carrying broadcast stations on your Basic Cable Service.
- **Franchise Fee** – This is a contract fee set up by the city to allow us to come into their community and provide cable service.
- **Sports Surcharge Fee** - Offsets some of the costs VAST must pay to sports programming networks.
- **Access Recovery Fee (ARC)** - Access charges are fees charged subscribers or other telephone companies by a local telephone company for the use of its local network.
- **Public, Educational, and Governmental (PEG) Fees** - A local franchise authority may require that a cable operator provide channels for public, education, and / or government access. The LFA may require the cable operator to provide funds for equipment for local studios for these channels and operating funds to cover the expenses of operating the studios.