



## TAXES, FEES AND SURCHARGES

The rates and charges for services provided by HighComm, LLC (“HighComm”) are exclusive of the charges described below. These charges do not count toward the attainment of any volume or revenue commitment and will not be discounted or credited in any way.

Below are descriptions of most of the charges that could appear on any invoice. These charges may or may not apply depending on the type of service you subscribe to. There may also be other charges on your invoice that are not described below. Any questions should be directed to [info@highcomm.com](mailto:info@highcomm.com) or call 1-844-410-0100.

In general, charges appearing on invoices under “Taxes and Surcharges” or a similar heading or line item represent: (1) taxes imposed by governmental or quasi-governmental agencies that HighComm is required to collect on its services; (2) fees imposed by governmental or quasi-governmental agencies that HighComm may or may not be required to pass through to customers; and/or (3) industry standard cost recovery surcharges.

### Federal Universal Service Fund

The Federal Universal Service Fund (FUSF) surcharge is identified as the “Federal Universal Service” charge on your HighComm bill. It is a monthly, percentage-based surcharge established by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and assessed on customers’ interstate and international service. This fund supports telecommunications and information services in schools, public libraries and rural health care facilities; and subsidizes local service for consumers with low incomes and who live in areas where the costs of providing telephone service is high. The percentage of the surcharge changes each quarter. The applicable rate can be found at <http://www.fcc.gov/omd/contribution-factor.html/>

### State Universal Service Fund

Similar to the FUSF, a number of states have enacted their own universal service fund on a state level. Funding helps pay for services to low income customers, customers with communication disabilities, and customers who reside in rural areas served by small or rural telecom providers where costs of providing telephone service is high. The contribution factor varies by state.

### Long Distance Access Charge

The Long Distance Access Charge is a monthly charge the company assesses to recover costs imposed by the Local Exchange Carriers furnishing access services for use with the company’s interexchange service.

### Franchise Fee

The municipal franchise fee is also often referred to as a “right-of-way” fee. It is a monthly charge imposed by local jurisdictions and paid by the customer to help recover the costs associated with providing telephone service, to include installation of underground conduit, outside telephone wires, and telephone poles. This fee varies by location and is often based upon an agreement between the local jurisdiction and HighComm or upon local or state law.

### Federal Excise Tax

The Federal Excise tax is imposed by the IRS and applied as percentage of standalone local telephone service and related features.

### E911 Emergency System

This surcharge is imposed by local jurisdictions to fund the 911 Emergency Systems.

### P.U.C. Tax

The Public Utility Commission (PUC) tax is a charge imposed by state telecommunications regulatory agencies on users of regulated services, which is used to finance operational costs of the state regulatory agency.



### Sales Tax

Sales tax is a tax imposed by nearly all states, counties, HighComm and districts, on the sale of various goods and services for use or consumption. The applicability of the tax, as well as the rates, varies by each jurisdiction's constitutional provisions, and some services may be exempt from state and local sales taxes pursuant to federal law.

### Access Recovery Charge

The Access Recovery Charge (ARC) is calculated as a percentage of total monthly recurring charges, and implemented to recover a portion of the access charges imposed by local exchange carriers (LECs).

### Federal Regulatory Fee

This is a monthly charge assessed on interstate and international charges that allow the company to recover costs imposed by the Federal Government for Telecommunications Relay Services for the hearing-impaired and national number administration.

### Property Tax Recovery Charge

This is a charge that allows HighComm to recover a portion of the property tax it pays to state and local jurisdictions.

### Gross Receipts Tax

The Statutory Gross Receipts Tax is a tax on the privilege of doing business in the state measured by gross receipts received from business done in the state. This tax is typically imposed on the telecommunication provider; however, some states allow the provider to pass on the tax to the consumer.

### Administrative Cost Recovery Fee

This is a fee that allows HighComm to recover the costs associated with the collection, processing and payment of any tax, fee or surcharge imposed upon HighComm or that HighComm must and/or does collect on customer invoices which it must then remit to the applicable tax jurisdiction or regulatory body. This includes HighComm's internal costs associated with compliance with any regulatory agency.

### Cost Recovery Fee

This is a fee that allows HighComm to recover regulatory fees and expenses incurred by HighComm, such as FCC regulatory fees to fund various federally mandated programs, (PUC) fees, various state business licenses, and various state annual regulatory fees not otherwise provided in other line items or surcharges.

### Federal Access Recovery Fee

The Federal Access Recovery Fee (FARF) is a charge designed to recover, in part, HighComm's costs of purchasing local access service from LECs, which include regulatory fees that LECs assess on or pass through to HighComm.

### Universal Cost Recovery

Designed to recover access-related costs and municipality costs that cannot be recovered in a traditional line-item, per circuit/per service basis including increases due to FCC or other governmental or regulatory actions or judicial determinations made in connection with incumbent local exchange carrier charges for such circuits.

### Carrier Recovery Surcharge

HighComm will charge a 15% fee in conjunction with various governmental taxes and surcharges, levies and administrative costs that HighComm incurs in procuring service for customers. This fee is designed, in part, to simplify the charges appearing on an invoice. This is a blended fee that will not be itemized. HighComm has designed the fee to be reasonable and believes it is lower than many in the industry. The Fee appears in the taxes and surcharges section of customer invoices and applies to all services. The fee is consistent with HighComm's customer agreements and is standard in the industry. The fee is not a tax, so it is therefore not subject to tax exemption. Some of the charges that are included in the blended fee are as follows:

- Cost Recovery Fee
- Property Tax Surcharge



- Franchise Cost Recovery
- FARF
- Administrative Cost Recovery Fee
- Universal Cost Recovery

**TAX EXEMPTIONS/DISCLAIMER/RESERVATION OF RIGHTS:** Many of the fees and surcharges listed above are NOT taxes and therefore are neither subject to nor eligible for tax exemption. To the extent a customer provides HighComm a duly authorized tax exemption certificate, HighComm will exempt such customer as of the date the certificate is received. No retroactive exemption or refund will be allowed. Customers qualifying for tax exemption will be required to show collection and remittance of such taxes to HighComm as required by HighComm in its sole discretion. If HighComm collects a tax and such tax or the collection thereof is found to be invalid or unenforceable, and solely if Status retained such amount or such amounts were returned to HighComm by the taxing jurisdiction, in its sole discretion HighComm may reduce future rates in order to offset such amounts collected, may grant credits on future invoices or may refund such amounts. If such amounts are retained by the taxing jurisdiction HighComm may, but is under no obligation to, use commercially reasonable efforts to obtain a resolution to customers in that jurisdiction. HighComm reserves the right to collect taxes retroactively in its sole discretion. HighComm reserves the right to review and update this document periodically and customer is bound by the then current document at all times, not the document active at the effective time of its contract with HighComm. Any disputes related to the taxes, fees and/or surcharges set forth above or anything contained in this document are specifically subject to the arbitration provisions contained in the terms and conditions of any applicable HighComm service agreement.