

# CITY COUNCIL STAFF REPORT

Meeting Date: September 10, 2018

Agenda Item Title/Item: Golf Carts

Prepared by: Staff

---

**AGENDA ITEM DESCRIPTION:** The City of Bel Aire does not currently allow for the use of golf carts on any public street within the corporate city limits or on any street with a posted speed limit greater than 30 mph. (Crossing roadways)

---

**BACKGROUND / HISTORY:** The City of Bel Aire has never allowed for the use of golf carts on public streets within the corporate city limits.

The Standard Traffic Ordinance for Kansas Cities, (Standard Traffic Ordinance or STO), in large part, parallels the state traffic act. Additional provisions for local regulations, if any, may be included in the incorporating ordinance. The City of Bel Aire has adopted the Standard Traffic Ordinance for use by the Bel Aire Police Department for traffic enforcement.

The Standard Traffic Ordinance has the following definition for golf carts:

**Golf Cart.** A motor vehicle that has not less than three wheels in contact with the ground, an unladen weight of not more than 1,800 pounds, is designed to be and is operated at not more than 25 miles per hour and is designed to carry not more than four persons including the driver.

The Standard Traffic Ordinance referencing the operation of a golf cart is:

**Sec. 114.4. Unlawful Operation of a Golf Cart.**

(a) It shall be unlawful for any person to operate a golf cart:

- (1) On any interstate highway, federal highway, or state highway;
- (2) On any public highway or street within the corporate limits of any city unless authorized by such city; or
- (3) On any street or highway with a posted speed limit greater than 30 miles per hour. (b) The provisions of subsection

(b) shall not prohibit a golf cart from crossing a federal or state highway or a street or highway with a posted speed limit in excess of 30 miles per hour.

(c) A golf cart shall be operated on any public street or highway only during the hours between sunrise and sunset, unless equipped with:

- (1) Lights as required for motorcycles by Sections 183 through Section 188 of this ordinance; and
- (2) A properly mounted slow-moving vehicle emblem as required by K.S.A. 8-1717, and amendments thereto. (K.S.A. Supp. 8-15,108)

In the past five years, questions regarding the use of golf carts on city streets have come up. The police department has relied on the Standard Traffic Ordinance for direction. It is unlawful to operate golf carts on public streets in the City of Bel Aire.

Of the cities listed on the Golf Cart Study attachment, each has ordinance restrictions greater than state law. Most Kansas cities have additional requirements including:

- Age restrictions of drivers and occupants
- Driver's license requirements
- Speed restrictions
- Time restrictions
- Registration and Fees
- Insurance requirements
- Capacity restrictions
- Sidewalk use restrictions and
- Long lists of required equipment for use on public streets including:
  - Working lights: Head, brake, and tail lights with turn signals
  - DOT approved tires, windshield wiper and seat belts
  - Minimum top speed between 20 and 25 mph
  - A 17-digit Vehicle Identification Number (VIN)
  - Interior and exterior mounted mirrors
  - Speedometer
  - Horn
  - Reflex reflectors on all corners of cart
  - A lighted license plate bracket

Other cities have also had to contend with collateral issues regarding the storage and parking of golf carts when they are not in use.

---

**FINANCIAL IMPACT:** Currently, there is no financial impact as golf carts are not allowed in the City of Bel Aire.

---

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:** Staff recommends maintaining our current position of not allowing golf cart use on public streets in the City of Bel Aire.

  X   Attachments for review