



DATE: Tuesday, July 15, 2025
TO: Mayor and City Council
FROM: City Attorney
SUBJECT: 2025 Standard Traffic Ordinance (STO)

Background: Published by the League of Kansas Municipalities since 1960, the Standard Traffic Ordinance (STO) contains over 100 traffic offenses that can be adjudicated in municipal court. While many of the provisions parallel state law, the STO also contains offenses that are frequently enforced only within cities. It is designed to provide a comprehensive public offense ordinance for Kansas cities. The costs are: 1-4 copies are \$10.00 each, 5-10 copies are \$9.50 each, 11-30 copies are \$9.00 each, 31 copies and over are \$8.50 each. An electronic copy is available for a fee of approximately \$13.75 and with a signed licensing agreement. It lasts for 1 year and may be extended for an additional fee. There is also a “website edition” for \$100.00.

Bel Aire currently incorporates the STO by reference, for the purpose of regulating public offenses within the corporate limits of the City of Bel Aire, Kansas.

Discussion: The following sections were modified in the 52nd Edition of the STO published in 2025.

Section 40.3 Passing a Stationary Vehicle Displaying Hazard or Caution Signals

Senate Bill 8 introduced this section concerning drivers approaching stopped or parked vehicles displaying warning lights or caution signals. Drivers must proceed with caution and, if possible and safe, change lanes away from the stationary vehicle.

Section 114.5 Unlawful Operation of a Work-Site Utility Vehicle

This section was updated to replace previous mentions of all-terrain vehicles with work-site vehicles.

Section 201.1 Failure to Comply with a Traffic Citation

This section, was updated to define non-compliance as failing to appear in municipal court and pay fines and court costs as ordered. Municipal courts can no longer seek driver’s license suspensions for failing to comply with certain pedestrian and traffic control device citations.

Financial Considerations: Other than the purchase of STO hard copy books and an electronic version, there will be no other costs to the City.

Legal Considerations: The City Attorney has drafted and approved the proposed ordinance. It requires a majority vote for approval.

Recommendation/Actions: It is recommended that City Council approve the proposed ordinance.

Attachments: Proposed ordinance