

TOWN COUNCIL

STAFF REPORT Police Department



MEETING DATE:	March 12, 2024
PROJECT:	Consideration to Amend Towing Ordinance, First Reading
PROJECT MANAGER:	Joe Babkiewicz, Chief of Police

REQUEST: Consideration of an ordinance to amend Chapter 26 – Traffic and Motor Vehicles, Article VII – Towing and Wrecker Services, First Reading.

BACKGROUND: The Police Department and Town staff made recommended updates to the above-named ordinance from the Town of Bluffton Code of Ordinances. The primary change was to update the rate schedule to bring the types of fees and the rates charged more in line with neighboring jurisdictions. This primary recommended change would reduce tow company billing errors, improve cost reasonableness, and establish better consistency in customer expectations.

Two additional changes were also suggested: the process for tow companies to submit new or revised qualification packages was updated, and clarifications to the required insurance coverages and evidence of vehicle ownership were suggested.

CURRENT FEE SCHEDULE V. RECOMMENDED FEE SCHEDULE:

<i>Current Fee Description</i>	<i>Current Fee</i>	New Fee Description	New Fee
<i>Pick up Town of Bluffton</i>	<i>\$ 75.00</i>	Request for tow of Town of Bluffton vehicles	\$ 75.00
<i>Pick up disabled vehicles</i>	<i>\$125.00</i>	Law enforcement requested tow	\$200.00
<i>Pick up police request (8am – 10 pm)</i>	<i>\$100.00</i>	Law enforcement requested tow with collision	\$300.00
<i>Pick up police request (10pm – 8 am)</i>	<i>\$200.00</i>	Tow exceeding one hour	\$200 per additional hour
<i>Police impound request</i>	<i>\$125.00</i>	Storage per day after first 24 hours*	\$ 40.00

<i>Storage per day after first 24 hours</i>	<i>\$25.00</i>	Gate fee for customer-requested pick up after normal business hours	\$ 75.00
		Administrative fee for title notification	\$300.00

NEXT STEPS: Town Council has the authority to take the following action on First Reading of the proposed ordinance modification:

1. Approve the ordinance as submitted;
2. Approve the ordinance with modifications;
3. Deny the ordinance as submitted.

First reading is occurring today, March 12, 2024. Second and final reading is proposed for the April 9, 2024 Town Council meeting.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Ordinance
2. Ordinance Exhibit A
3. Recommended Motion