



COLUMBUS POLICE DEPARTMENT

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MEMO

To: Columbus City Council

FROM: Chief Dennis Weiner

DW

REF: Act 113: \$10 increase in court costs per citation

DATE: June 9, 2026

In March the state passed and signed legislation into effect that increased the current court cost assessed per ticket, from \$38 to \$48. I was not aware of this change until the time it went into effect, upon receiving email notices. The last court cost portion of a citation increase was in 2017.

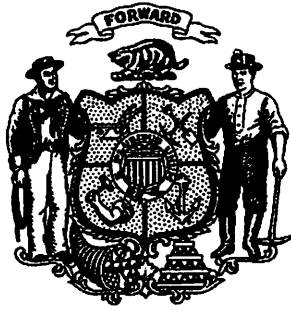
The Eastern Columbia County Joint Municipal Court (ECCJMC) advised BadgerTracs (WI DOT). They host and maintain the ticket writing software, referred to as TRACS (traffic and criminal software). This software program is required to be used by every police department in the state, to add the \$10 increase to all citations.

Last week at the ECCJMC meeting in Wyocena City Administrator Amundson and I attended; it was recommended that each municipality also approve the \$10 increase.

You will see in the attached statute change mention of \$5 to the Secretary of Administration monthly for each citation. That was the law and in place prior to this bill. The court cost was previously \$38 and the court netted \$33. With the \$10 increase the court will now net \$43 of the \$48 fee.

This \$10 increase will help the financial stability of the court which currently is operating with a deficit. It potentially could reduce or eliminate the need to seek operational funding from the municipalities

State of Wisconsin



2025 Assembly Bill 443

Date of enactment: March 20, 2026
Date of publication*: March 21, 2026

2025 WISCONSIN ACT 113

AN ACT to *amend* 814.65 (1) of the statutes; **relating to:** increasing the maximum fee for court costs collectible in a municipal court action.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. 814.65 (1) of the statutes is amended to read:

814.65 (1) COURT COSTS. In a municipal court action, except for a financial responsibility violation under s. 344.62 (2) or for a violation of an ordinance in conformity with s. 343.51 (1m) (b) or 347.48 (2m), the mu-

nicipal ~~judge court~~ shall collect a fee of not less than \$15 nor more than ~~\$38~~ ~~\$48~~ on each separate matter, whether it is on default of appearance, a plea of guilty or no contest, on issuance of a warrant or summons, or the action is tried as a contested matter. Of each fee received by the ~~judge court~~ under this subsection, the municipal treasurer shall pay monthly \$5 to the secretary of administration for deposit in the general fund and shall retain the balance for the use of the municipality.

* Section 991.11, WISCONSIN STATUTES: Effective date of acts. "Every act and every portion of an act enacted by the legislature over the governor's partial veto which does not expressly prescribe the time when it takes effect shall take effect on the day after its date of publication."