

JEFFERSON CITY, TENNESSEE

ORDINANCE 2026-12

**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND TITLE 3,
CHAPTER 2, SECTION 3-202 TO
ESTABLISH REASONABLE COURT COSTS.**

WHEREAS, Tennessee Code Annotated § 16-18-304 allows cities to set and collect reasonable municipal court costs; and

WHEREAS, the City of Jefferson City has determined that it is in the best interest of the city to amend Title 3, Chapter 2, Section 3-202 regarding court costs and set a revised court cost amount;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL
OF JEFFERSON CITY, TENNESSEE, THAT:**

Section 1. Title 3, Chapter 2, Section 3-202 of the Jefferson City Municipal Code is amended by deleting the current language in its entirety and substituting instead the following new Title 3, Chapter 2, Section 3-202(1)-(5):

3-202. Imposition of Fines, Penalties, and Costs. (1) All fines, penalties and costs shall be imposed and recorded by the city judge on the city court docket in open court.

(2) Court Costs - In all cases heard and determined by him or her, the city judge shall impose court costs in the amount of seventy and 50/100 dollars (\$70.50). Two dollars (\$2.00) of the court costs shall be forwarded by the court clerk to the state treasurer in accordance with Tennessee Code Annotated § 16-18-304(a) to be used by the Administrative Office of the Courts for training and continuing education courses for municipal court judges and municipal court clerks.

(3) When any person has been charged with violation of a law regarding vehicle equipment (including but not limited to inoperable headlights, tail lights, brake lights or turn signals), driver licensing, or vehicle licensing and registration, the charge may be dismissed if the person charged with the violation submits evidence of compliance with such law on or before the court date; provided, however, that the city judge may establish a separate court cost not to exceed \$10.00 to be collected from the person charged with the violation. This separate court cost will be assessed in lieu of the court costs detailed in Section 3-202(2) above.

Two dollars (\$2.00) of the court costs shall be forwarded by the court clerk to the state treasurer in accordance with Tennessee Code Annotated § 16-18-304(a) to be used by the Administrative Office of the Courts for training and continuing education courses for municipal court judges and municipal court clerks.

(4) Litigation Taxes - In all cases where the defendant is charged with the violation of a city ordinance or authorized state statute and is found guilty, whether by trial or plea of guilty, such defendant shall pay:

(a) The State litigation taxes as defined in Tennessee Code Annotated § 67-4-601.

(b) In addition, pursuant to the authority granted in Tennessee Code Annotated § 67-4-601, the City of Jefferson City adopts a local litigation tax of \$13.75, and the court shall levy this local litigation tax in all cases in which the state litigation tax is levied.

(c) Any other taxes and/or fees imposed pursuant to state statutes and/or city ordinances.

(5) Electronic citation regulations and fees.

(a) As used in this section, "electronic citation" means a written citation or an electronic citation prepared by a law enforcement officer on paper or on an electronic data device with the intent the citation shall be filed, electronically or otherwise, with a court having jurisdiction over the alleged offense.

(b) Pursuant to and in accordance with state statutory requirements found in Tennessee Code Annotated § 55-10-207(e), each court clerk shall charge and collect an electronic citation fee of five dollars (\$5.00) for each citation which results in a conviction. This fee shall terminate five (5) years from the effective date of Ordinance No. 2024-09 and shall not be construed as reauthorizing or extending the fee beyond that original termination date.

Section 2. This ordinance shall take effect from and after its final passage, the public welfare requiring it.

Passed on First Reading this 5th day of October, 2026.

Passed on Second Reading this _____ day of _____, 2026.

Mitch Cain, Mayor

Attest:

Bettina Chandler, City Recorder

Approved as to Form:

Robert Burts, City Attorney