



## City of Needles, California Request for City Council Action

☒ CITY COUNCIL ☐ NPUA

☒ Regular ☐ Special

**Meeting Date:** July 8, 2025

**Title:** Proposed Adjustments to the City's Fees and Service Charges

**Background:** Per Chapter 8 of the Needles City Code, fees and service charges are to be reviewed and adjusted annually to recover the actual costs of providing services to the public. The City's fiscal policy, also codified in Chapter 8, requires recovery of costs at designated target percentages. The cost of providing city services has risen since fee increases were last adopted by Council in Fiscal Year 2023.

Resolution No. 2025-30 proposes approximately a 6% increase to most fees, reflecting recent staff salary adjustments, with rounding to the nearest dollar resulting in slight deviations from the exact percentage. Fees charged on an actual cost basis or those requiring deposits have not been increased. Additionally, recreation program fees remain unchanged, as summer programming is already underway. Certain animal control fees have been increased by more than 6 percent to reflect higher vaccine and euthanasia costs driven by rising medicine prices. In addition to the 6 percent increase to all cemetery fees, the Endowment Care Fund allocation from burial lot purchases is proposed to be increased by \$100 to address the fund's significant underfunding. Lastly, outdated Police-related fees are being deleted as those services are now provided under contract by the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department.

A Cost of Services Fee Study is the tool to determine the true costs of providing services and to align fees with the City's cost recovery targets, ensuring that fees do not exceed the reasonable estimated cost of providing services. The last Cost of Services Fee Study was completed in 2022, so staff intends to conduct a new study before the end of the current fiscal year to ensure that fees continue to recover costs at levels set in City Code Chapter 8. Additionally, staff will continue to bring fee changes to Council annually, using modest inflation-based adjustments to minimize public impact while maintaining pace with rising costs.

Exhibit A of Resolution No. 2025-30 details the current and proposed fees and charges.

**Fiscal Impact:** Varying impact on departmental revenues. No additional revenue appropriation is requested at this time.

**Recommended Action:** Adopt Resolution No. 2025-30 A Resolution Of The City Council Of The City Of Needles, California, Establishing A Revised Schedule Of Certain Fees And Charges For City Services

**Submitted By:** Jill Taura, Interim Finance Director

**City Manager Approval:** Patrick J. Martinez

**Date:** 7/2/2025

**Other Department Approval (when required):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

Approved: ☐

Not Approved: ☐

Tabled: ☐

Other: ☐