



CITY OF NORMAN, OK STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: 4/14/26

REQUESTER: Rickey J. Knighton II

PRESENTER: Rickey J. Knighton II, City Attorney

ITEM TITLE: CONSIDERATION OF ADOPTION, REJECTION, AMENDMENT, AND/OR POSTPONEMENT OF ORDINANCE O-2526-55 UPON FIRST READING: AN ORDINANCE OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORMAN AMENDING THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY BY ADDING THERETO A NEW SECTION TO ARTICLE 32-VI IMPOUNDMENT OF VEHICLES, TITLED "WRECKER SERVICES," AND PROVIDING FOR THE SEVERABILITY THEREOF.

BACKGROUND:

Subsection C of 47 O.S. § 952 permits the governing bodies of political subdivision to regulate the wrecker vehicle used to perform wrecker or towing services requested by a political subdivision of this state for removal of a vehicle from public property for reasons listed in 47 O.S. § 955. This ordinance regulates the wrecker vehicle used to perform wrecker or towing services requested by the Norman Police.

DISCUSSION:

In pertinent part, 47 O.S. § 952(C) states as follows:

Unless otherwise regulated by the governing body of the political subdivision, the wrecker vehicle used to perform wrecker or towing services requested by a political subdivision of this state for removal of a vehicle from public property for reasons listed in Section 955 of this title shall be from the licensed wrecker or towing service whose location is nearest to the vehicle to be towed. Requests for service may be alternated or rotated among all such licensed wrecker or towing services which are located within a reasonable radius of each other.

The plain language of this provision permits the governing body of a political subdivision to regulate the wrecker vehicle used to perform wrecker or towing services requested by a political subdivision for removal of a vehicle from public property for reasons listed in 47 O.S. § 955.

The Norman Police Department alternates or rotates requests for service among contractors with an office and impoundment yard with the corporate limits of the City of Norman. The proposed ordinance simply codifies the Norman Police Department existing practice. It requires that contractors providing

wrecker or towing service or the Norman Police Department maintain an office and impoundment yard within the corporate limits of the City of Norman between west 72nd Avenue and east 84th Avenue. As a condition of providing wrecker or towing services for the Norman Police Department, the proposed ordinance also requires that such contractors comply with the guidelines, policies, or standard operating procedures approved by the Chief of Police, and with all applicable federal, state, and municipal laws governing towing services and impoundment yards.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval of Ordinance No. O-2526-55 as it establishes clear, uniform standards for wrecker and towing services utilized by the City, promotes timely and reliable response for public safety needs, and enhances oversight, accountability, and consumer protection. Adoption of the ordinance will support efficient coordination with law enforcement and ensure consistent administration of towing operations within the City.