

# Proposed Fee Schedule Impound/Seizure Vehicles

## Background

The Port Lavaca Police Department occasionally impounds vehicles that are connected to criminal investigations or that must be held as evidence. These vehicles are stored in the secured Police Department impound lot until the investigation is complete or the vehicle is authorized for release.

Currently, the City of Port Lavaca does not have a city ordinance establishing a fee schedule for vehicles stored in the police impound lot. As a result, the City absorbs administrative costs associated with the management of these vehicles.

These costs include:

- Administrative processing of the impound
- Certified mail notifications to vehicle owners and lienholders
- Documentation and records management
- Secure storage of vehicles
- Personnel time related to impound management and release

The proposed ordinance establishes a fee schedule intended to recover a portion of these administrative and storage costs.

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## Scope of Ordinance

The ordinance applies **only to vehicles stored in the Port Lavaca Police Department impound lot for criminal or evidentiary purposes.**

All other vehicle tows handled by the Police Department, such as:

- Traffic hazards
- Disabled vehicles
- Arrest-related tows where the vehicle is not evidence
- Abandoned vehicles

are handled by licensed commercial towing companies and stored at licensed Vehicle Storage Facilities regulated by the State of Texas.

The City of Port Lavaca **does not collect any fees** for those vehicles.

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# Proposed Fee Schedule

*(Police Department Impound Lot Only)*

Fee Type	Amount
Impound Administrative Fee	\$20.00
Tow Fee	Actual cost of tow
Certified Mail Notification Fee	\$50.00
Storage Fee	\$20.00 per day

Storage fees begin 24 hours after the vehicle is impounded.

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## Comparison with Nearby City

### City of Victoria

The City of Victoria operates a municipal impound lot and charges administrative and storage fees for vehicles held by the police department.

Victoria's fee schedule includes:

Fee Type	Amount
Administrative / Impound Fee	Approximately \$20–\$25
Storage Fee	Approximately \$20 per day
Notification Fee	Charged for certified mail notice

The proposed Port Lavaca fee schedule is **consistent with and comparable to Victoria's municipal impound fees**.

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## Fiscal Impact

The ordinance is not intended to generate significant revenue but will allow the City to recover administrative and storage costs associated with vehicles held in police custody.

Estimated impacts include:

- Partial recovery of administrative costs
  - Partial recovery of storage management costs
  - Reduction in unreimbursed expenses for long-term evidence vehicles
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## **Staff Recommendation**

Staff recommends approval of the ordinance establishing a fee schedule for vehicles stored in the Port Lavaca Police Department impound lot.