

**BILL NO. 26-25
260707A**

ORDINANCE NO.

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF WILLARD, MISSOURI, ADOPTING THE CITY OF WILLARD ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INCENTIVE POLICY.

WHEREAS, the Board of Alders finds that responsible economic development is essential to maintaining and improving the quality of life, public infrastructure, employment opportunities, and long-term fiscal sustainability of the City of Willard; and

WHEREAS, the Board further finds that the strategic and prudent use of economic development incentives may, under appropriate circumstances, encourage private investment, business retention, business expansion, redevelopment, infrastructure improvements, and commercial growth that might not otherwise occur; and

WHEREAS, the Board desires to establish a transparent, consistent, and objective framework for evaluating requests for economic development incentives that promotes accountability, protects the public interest, ensures responsible stewardship of public resources, and provides clear expectations for applicants seeking such incentives; and

WHEREAS, the Board further finds that economic development incentives should be awarded only after careful consideration of the public benefits to be achieved, the financial feasibility of the proposed project, and the City's adopted economic development priorities, while recognizing that each request must be evaluated on its own individual merits; and

WHEREAS, the Board desires to formally adopt the City of Willard Economic Development Incentive Policy to establish the City's goals, priorities, standards, procedures, and evaluation criteria governing future requests for economic development incentives.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF ALDERS OF THE CITY OF WILLARD, MISSOURI, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Adoption.

The document entitled "City of Willard Economic Development Incentive Policy," dated July 6th, 2026, and approved by the Board of Alders, is hereby adopted as the official policy governing the City's consideration, evaluation, negotiation, administration, and oversight of economic development incentive requests.

Section 2. Incorporation by Reference.

The City of Willard Economic Development Incentive Policy is hereby incorporated into this Ordinance by reference as though fully set forth herein. The policy shall have the same force and effect as if fully recited in this Ordinance. A copy of the adopted policy

shall be maintained by the City Clerk and made available for public inspection in accordance with applicable law.

Section 3. Administration.

The City Administrator, City Clerk, and other appropriate City officials are authorized and directed to administer and implement the provisions of the Economic Development Incentive Policy in accordance with its terms.

Section 4. Nature of Policy.

The Economic Development Incentive Policy is intended to serve as a guide for the consideration of requests for economic development incentives and to promote consistency, transparency, and accountability in the City's decision-making process. Nothing contained in this Ordinance or the incorporated Policy shall be construed to create any entitlement, contractual right, vested interest, or obligation requiring the City to approve any application or grant any economic development incentive. The Board of Alders expressly reserves its legislative discretion to approve, deny, modify, or condition any request for incentives as permitted by law.

Section 5. Amendments.

The Economic Development Incentive Policy may be amended from time to time by the Board of Alders, unless otherwise required by law. Any amendment adopted by the Board shall automatically become part of the policy incorporated by reference herein.

Section 6. Severability.

If any section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase, or provision of this Ordinance is for any reason held to be invalid or unconstitutional, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this Ordinance, which shall continue in full force and effect.

Section 7. Effective Date.

This Ordinance shall take effect and be in full force from and after its passage and approval as provided by law.

Read, this first time on this _____ day of _____, 2026.

Read, this second time, passed, and truly agreed to by the Board of Aldermen of the City of Willard, Missouri this _____ day of _____, 2026.

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk