

Amendments to Chapter 3.49 Regarding Emergency Wreckers



Wichita Police Department

May 3, 2022



Background

- Emergency wrecking services are provided by wreckers licensed pursuant to City ordinances. These wreckers participate in a wrecker rotation list. Wreckers are currently called by SPIDER, as needed, to respond to accidents at the request of law enforcement officers. The Wichita Police Department utilizes the wrecker rotation list to respond timely to accident scenes.
- In addition to the wrecker rotation list, the City has a contract with several tow companies to provide towing services for vehicles that are impounded by the Wichita Police Department.



Background



- The Police Department is requesting amendments to City ordinances to ensure consistency of services provided by wrecker services with the terms negotiated in the impound contract.



Analysis



- Requires licensees to maintain adequate records regarding the fees charged and disposition of vehicles. The Chief of Police or his or her designee is authorized to inspect such records.
- Since 2012, fees have been established by licensees. Prior to that time, maximum fees were set forth by ordinance. The current fees for licensees for 2021 is attached. Many of the scheduled fees are 30 to 40 percent higher than the amounts charged for the same services to the police department for impound tows. To assist consumers and establish consistency in fees, administrative fees are capped at the amount negotiated by the Wrecker Companies for the impounding of vehicles for the WPD.



Financial Considerations



- None



Legal Considerations



- The ordinance amendments have been drafted and approved as to form by the Law Department.



Recommendations/Actions



Place the ordinances on first reading and authorize all necessary signatures.

