

Police Impound Towing Contracts



Wichita Police Department

May 3, 2022



Background



- Currently, existing Emergency wrecker companies are licensed by the City of Wichita to perform emergency towing services. Emergency tows are those requested by the Police Department for wrecked vehicles at accident scenes.
- A towing rotation has been established. Licensed wrecker companies are called sequentially whenever an emergency tow or impound tow is necessary.
- Fees for emergency tows are established by the wrecker companies at the time of the annual one-year licensing period



Background



- The Wichita Police Department impounds abandoned vehicles as well as vehicles when the driver is arrested.
- A contract exists with wrecker companies for these tows and fees for impound tows are set in the existing contract.
- In 2021, there were 3,736 emergency tows directed by citizens and 1,732 impound tows directed by WPD staff



Analysis

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- Amendments to Emergency Wrecker Ordinances to bring them into compliance with certain operating terms agreed to in the proposed contracts will be brought before the council in a separate agenda item.
- On December 22, 2021, a Request for Proposal (RFP) was sent out for the purpose of obtaining a towing, storage, and on-line auction service to handle all Police-initiated impounds.
- Two (2) proposal submittals were received for this RFP, one (1) proposal represented eight (8) wrecker companies and the other proposal represented one (1) wrecker company.



Analysis



- After staff review and analysis of both proposal submittals, the Staff Screening and Selection Committee (SSSC) negotiated with all nine (9) towing companies.
- The SSSC deemed that all nine (9) of the towing firms met the stated evaluation criteria in the RFP. The terms of the proposed contracts include the following changes from the previous impound towing contracts:



Analysis



- Reduce the time that the wrecker company office must be open for the release of motor vehicles back to their owners. Change the opening of the office hours from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. to 7:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and Saturday office hours from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. to 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
- The Wrecker Contractor office will be closed six (6) major holidays, New Years, Memorial Day, Fourth of July, Labor Day, Thanksgiving and Christmas and Sundays. No storage fees will be assessed to citizens while Wrecker Contractor's lot office if the citizen picks up their vehicle within three (3) business days following a Holiday or Sunday.



Analysis



- Light duty towing hook/roll back fee increased from \$105 to \$120
- Overturn/Rollover fee increased from \$55 to \$65
- Dolly Service fees increased from \$43 to \$65
- Winching fees \$25 per every 15 minutes to \$30 per every 15 minutes
- Waiting time fees increased from \$15 per every 15 minutes to \$20 per every 15 minutes



Analysis



- Storage fees increased from \$30 per day to \$35 per day
- Tarp Fees increased from \$20 to \$25
- Lot fees increased from \$20 per day to \$30
- Heavy Duty Towing increased from \$250 per hour to \$300 per hour
- Title verification fee increased from \$20 to \$50



Analysis



- Towing to a Police facility increased from \$100 maximum to \$140 maximum for vehicles that are upright on four wheels other tow fees only if required will be charged as per Exhibit C.
- Each wrecker company will remit \$125 for each vehicle auctioned only after the towing company collects their \$120 and the identified other towing fees per auctioned vehicle.
- A 4% percent annual increase was added to this contract that will be increased on each of the four (4) renewal periods on specific identified towing fees.



Analysis



- Each wrecker company is indemnifying the City for any liability associated with the improper sale of a vehicle or the failure to provide proper notification of the sale to the legal owner of a vehicle.
- Approve the Contract Amendment with the new increased fees for Impound towing to be in effect on May 3, 2022 through May 31, 2022. At each of the four (4) renewal period, staff may extend the contract terms to any licensed wrecking company that is appropriately licensed and agrees to be bound by the contractual provisions.



Financial Considerations



- The amounts received by the City for impound auctioned vehicles is estimated to reach \$75,000 annually, assuming 630 vehicles are auctioned annually.
- In addition, the \$30 administrative fee is expected to generate \$30,000 annually.
- This revenue is expected to offset Police Department costs of administering the provisions of the City Code pertaining to impound towing, as well as other regulatory and contractual provisions.



Legal Considerations



- The proposed contracts have been reviewed and approved as to form by the Law Department.



Recommendations/Actions



Approve the recommended Police Impound Towing contract and authorize the necessary signatures.

