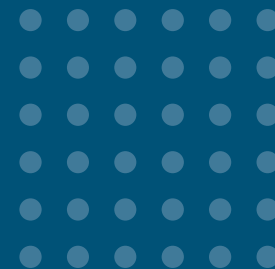




CITY OF
WICHITA



Impound Towing Contract and Creation of Payment Plan for Police Impounds



Police Department

May 25, 2022



Impound Towing Background



- The Wichita Police Department (WPD) impound towing process is outlined in City Code section 11.97.010.
- Reasons to impound include: the vehicle is a traffic hazard, unsafe to drive, subject to seizure as evidence, reported stolen and recovered, or the driver is taken into WPD custody.
- There are approximately 1,700 impound tows annually.



Impound Towing Background



- The City has contracted with tow companies to provide impound towing for many years.
- An owner may redeem the vehicle by paying all applicable towing and storage charges - this typically occurs 1,000 times annually.
- Vehicles which are not redeemed are auctioned - this typically occurs 700 times annually.



Impound Towing Contracts



- The City issued an RFP for impound towing in December 2021.
- Based on a SSSC recommendation, staff negotiated contracts with nine wrecker companies which included fee increases.



History



- On May 17, 2022, impound towing contracts were considered by the City Council. During discussions, concerns were raised regarding the costs assessed to economically disadvantaged individuals whose vehicles are impounded by the WPD.



Impound Towing Contracts

- Following the May 17, 2022, City Council meeting, all impound towing companies were asked to submit their best and final proposals. The companies were informed that up to four contractors would be chosen.
- Kidd Towing and Tow All submitted the best proposals.
- Their proposals maintained the prices of the 2020 contract.



Impound Towing



- It is recommended that a third contract be approved, because it is unclear that two companies have the sufficient capacity to handle the current volume of impound towing.
- Based on staff's review, the next best proposal was received from Arrow Wrecker. This proposal matched the Kidd Towing and Tow All proposals with the lowest basic towing costs.
- Over the next year, staff will evaluate options for reducing impound costs for residents, including a model operated by the City.



Proposed Payment Plan



- Staff has proposed a program to assist economically disadvantaged persons with impound fees.
- This payment program would allow eligible applicants to pay \$600 in accrued fees in \$25 monthly payments; homeless individuals would be eligible for a fee waiver.
- The City would also reduce the City administrative fee to \$5 for eligible residents.



Ordinance Change



- The proposed ordinance authorizes the City Manager to establish a payment program for vehicle owners who are unable to pay fees incurred from the impoundment of their motor vehicle pursuant to Section 11.97.010.



Analysis: Payment Plan Guidelines



- The owner (or lessee) of the towed vehicle must be an individual. Businesses, including partnerships, trusts, for-profit corporations, and nonprofit corporations are not eligible to participate in the program.
- All requests for assistance must be received within five (5) calendar days from the date of the tow or impound of the motor vehicle.
- The owner must show proof of valid registration and ownership of the motor vehicle.
- The owner must provide proof of being economically disadvantaged.



Analysis: Payment Plan Guidelines



- The payment plan would provide for monthly installments of no more than twenty-five dollars (\$25) for total amounts not to exceed six hundred dollars (\$600). All fees should be paid within twenty-four (24) months.
- The plan will limit repayment of the City's processing fee collected from impound contractors to five dollars (\$5) or less for indigent persons.
- Individuals (owners) may only participate in one payment plan at any given time.



Homeless Waiver



- The proposed ordinance also authorizes a one-time waiver of impound fees for a homeless individual.
- Waived fees may not exceed \$600.
- Only individuals who are receiving homeless services and registered with the Homeless Management Information System at the time of the motor vehicle's impoundment are eligible for the waiver.



Recommendation



- Approve contracts for Kidd Towing, Tow All, and Arrow Wrecker to handle WPD impounds.
- Authorize staff to explore new strategies for enhancing impound towing.



Recommendations



- Place the ordinance amendments on first reading and authorize all necessary signatures.





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