



City of Racine, Wisconsin
Agenda Briefing Memorandum
Ordinance 0015-25 – Towing rates; payment

AGENDA DATE:

According to 2026 Budget Consideration Calendar

PREPARED BY: Ian R. Pomplin, Assistant City Attorney

REVIEWED BY: Scott R. Letteney, City Attorney

SUBJECT: Communication sponsored by Mayor Mason requesting an ordinance that updates the towing rates set by the city.

BACKGROUND & ANALYSIS:

The City of Racine requires a license for all towing companies that want to be placed on a rotation list to perform on-call services when requested by the Racine Police Department (“RPD”). Most often, towing services are required in response to vehicle accidents, abandoned vehicles, illegally parked vehicles, and immobile vehicles. Licensees perform towing services for both privately owned and city owned vehicles at the request of RPD. Oftentimes, these towing services are performed without the consent or knowledge of the owners, who subsequently have to pay for these services in order to get their vehicles released. In order to protect members of the public, the City sets maximum rates and fees that may be charged by each licensee for the performance of such services.

The current towing rates under Section 22-838 of the Municipal Code were last updated February 8, 2023. Since then, the cost of towing services has risen due to inflation. The Racine Police Department is recommending that the rates be modified to more accurately reflect the current costs of towing services. The Racine Police Department has spoken with other municipalities and towing companies to determine the current market rate for towing and these numbers more accurately reflect that rate.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: To Approve.

FISCAL NOTE & BUDGETARY IMPACT: N/A