

# Sgt. John Ostermeier #9209

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Safety and Licensing Committee and Common Council,

Ordinance 9-746 allows a yearly review and adjustment of the tow fee schedule. This fee schedule applies to tow services who apply to be on the APD rotating call list. This list is commonly used for tows following OWI arrests, parking violations which pose a hazard, and crashes and disabled vehicles in which the owner does not have a preference or is unable to make the decision on who tows their vehicle. This list is used on average about four times per day, or an estimated 1,500 times per year.

We currently have six tow services on our rotating call list (Accel, A&W, Bob's, D&D, Femal's, and Nolte's). At the start of the year, we had eight, but two were removed at my request. The six remaining services are located in Appleton, and have proven to be reputable, professional, and reliable. During the year I had many interactions with them. A common theme I heard was how rising equipment and labor costs are impacting their businesses.

Attached are two documents. One is the recommended adjustments to the fee schedule submitted by the tow services. The second is the APD recommended fee schedule. This is based on my own recommendations, as well as averages and rounding to fee categories where at least two tow services made recommendations for changes.

I offered each of the six tow services the opportunity to make recommendations. Three out of the six responded with recommended changes. Each tow service is unique with individual business models. Some services are small with only a couple light duty trucks. Others are large, with specialized recovery equipment and light and heavy-duty services. They have dramatically different overheads and salary costs and offer different services. All are important, and each provides a unique recommendation for the fee schedule.

My recommendations are as follows:

- Winching is currently billed pro-rated at \$60.00 per hour. Winching of vehicles is a complex operation. It is dangerous and vehicles are easily damaged if it's not done correctly. I have found that pro-rated billing is difficult to validate for audit and compliance purposes. I would recommend winching be a flat fee, and only pro-rated if it exceeds one hour.
- Motorcycles – two tow services recommended an increased fee for motorcycles. I can attest that motorcycles are typically towed on a flatbed tow truck. They require specialized bracing and strapping. Moving a motorcycle onto a tow truck is physically difficult and dangerous. Motorcycles are prone to damage and repairs are costly. A request for an increased fee is understandable.

Thank you for taking the time to address this. Our next-up tow services provide a critical service to our community. They work with our officers daily to maintain roadway safety. Having a fair and updated fee schedule is important.

Thank you,

SGT John Ostermeier #9209