

Legislative Summary

Amend various sections of Chapter 405 relating to vehicle impoundment

The proposed legislation is to amend Sections 405.01, 405.03, 405.06, 405.08, 405.10, and 405.11; to repeal Sections 405.05, 405.09, and 405.12; and to enact new Section 405.13, all relating to vehicle impoundment and towing operations.

The amendments would

- (i) modernize obsolete administrative provisions;
- (ii) (ii) recalibrate towing, impound, storage, and preparation fees to reflect current operating costs;
- (iii) (iii) repeal three provisions made obsolete by current legal and operational developments, including a probable-cause hearing framework predating the Parking Violation Bureau, an obsolete bicycle impound provision, and a vehicle diversion program no longer in use; and
- (iv) (iv) enact a new Section 405.13 requiring the Director of Public Safety to review chapter fees prior to initiating competitive bidding for towing, storage, or disposal contracts.

Several of the affected provisions have not been updated in nearly forty years and no longer reflect current operating costs or administrative practice.

A summary of the fee adjustments is provided below:

Code Section / Fee Category	Current	Proposed
§ 405.06(a)(2) — Standard tow fee (non-commercial)	\$125.00	\$190.00
§ 405.06(a)(2) — Recovered stolen vehicle tow	\$50.00	\$75.00
§ 405.06(a)(2) — Arrest-impound tow surcharge	\$175.00	Repealed
§ 405.06 — Dolly / flatbed / tire-change surcharge	\$35.00	\$50.00
§ 405.08(a) — Commercial storage (≤ 5 tons net weight)	\$10.00/day	\$20.00/day
§ 405.08(a) — Commercial storage (> 5 tons net weight)	\$20.00/day	\$25.00/day
§ 405.10(a)(1) — Transmission pin removal (non-commercial)	\$2.00	\$35.00
§ 405.10(a)(2) — Towing preparation labor in unique circumstances (non-commercial)	\$7.00/qtr-hr	\$35.00/qtr-hr

Code Section / Fee Category	Current	Proposed
§ 405.10(b)(2) — Additional helper rate (commercial), per hour	\$36.00/hr	\$40.00/hr
§ 405.10(b)(2) — Additional helper rate (commercial), per half-hour	\$18.00/half-hr	\$20.00/half-hr
§ 405.10(b)(3) — Specialized equipment use (cap \$1,200)	\$200.00/hr	\$250.00/hr
§ 405.11 — Incomplete / dropped tow	\$25.00	\$45.00

A one-to-one comparison of tow fees is challenging because municipalities do not categorize fees uniformly, and not all fees are established by ordinance.

A comparison of standard tow fees and recovered stolen vehicle fees among two of our peer cities is provided below:

Fee Category	Cleveland	Cincinnati	Columbus
Standard tow — light-duty / passenger	\$190.00	\$190.00	\$125.00 (≤ 7,000 lbs), 155.00 (7,001–10,050 lbs);
Recovered stolen vehicle — tow fee	\$75.00	\$100.00	\$55.00 one-time reduction

The proposed legislation will modernize the City’s vehicle impoundment and towing framework, more accurately reflect the current cost of providing these services and establish a structured fee-review mechanism tied to the competitive bidding process.