CITY OF JOPLIN
COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM

ITEM
Council Bill 2026-510 – Approving Schifferdecker Golf Course Fee Changes to establish discounted fees for Veterans and City Employees

MEETING DATE
May 4, 2026

ORIGINATING DEPT
Finance

ATTACHMENTS
CB 2026-510 Ordinance; Veteran and City Employee Discount Calculation

REVIEWED BY
Department Head: Leslie Haase; Parks Director: Paul Bloomberg; City Attorney: Peter Edwards; City Manager: Nick Edwards

SUMMARY
This Council Bill changes certain existing fees for Schifferdecker Golf Course.

BACKGROUND
The City recently completed the biennial user fee review, which was discussed with City Council at the budget work session on September 23, 2025. User fees are fees for services for specific users. User fees should recover most of the related cost of providing the service, so general taxes are not supporting services for specific users. Under Hancock provisions, the City is only allowed to recover the cost of providing the service. These fee increases were effective on January 1, 2026. City Staff was asked to present a council bill establishing a discounted fee for Veterans and City Employees at the Golf Course.

The Golf Course Fund is a proprietary fund and an enterprise fund. Proprietary funds that are enterprise funds are business-type funds that are generally self-supporting by outside fees. The Golf Course should cover its operating expenses by revenue generated from golf fees. Capital items for the Golf Course have historically been funded by the general fund. It should be noted that mainly due to an increase in minimum wage, the general fund subsidized Golf Operations by $239,592 in 2023, $16,860 in 2024 and $194,095 in 2025. Despite raising golf fees every other year, general taxes have still supported Golf operations.

When considering fee discounts for a proprietary fund such as the Golf Course, other user fees must be increased to cover the decreased revenue and help ensure that general taxes aren't supporting services for specific users.

This Council Bill grants a 10% discount in the green fees for City Employees and adds Veterans to the Senior green fees and annual pass, which equals a discount of 20%-29% depending upon the number of holes played along with the day played. It also increases the regular green fees by

$2.00 and the cart fee by $1.00 to cover ***most*** of the estimated revenue loss created from the discount. This calculation is summarized in the attached Veteran and City Employee Discount Calculation. Historically, the City has strived to set Schifferdecker Golf Course fees less than other surrounding course fees. Here is a breakdown of Golf Course fees with this change:

Service Description	Current Fee	Proposed Fee	Carthage Municipal Golf Course	Briarbrook Golf Course
18 holes Weekday with Cart	$39.00	$42.00	$42.00	$48.00
18 holes Weekend with Cart	$43.00	$46.00	$45.00	$48.00
18 holes Weekday Walking	$21.00	$23.00	$26.00	$28.00
18 holes Weekend Walking	$25.00	$27.00	$29.00	$28.00
Golf Cart – 9 holes	$11.00	$12.00	$10.00	$10.00
Golf Cart – 18 holes	$18.00	$19.00	$16.00	$20.00
18 holes Weekday with Cart-Senior and Veteran		$34.00		
18 holes Weekend with Cart-Senior and Veteran		$39.00		
18 holes Weekday Walking-Senior and Veteran		$15.00		
18 holes Weekend Walking-Senior and Veteran		$20.00		
18 holes Weekday with Cart-City Employees		$38.00		
18 holes Weekend with Cart-City Employees		$41.50		
18 holes Weekday Walking-City Employees		$19.00		
18 holes Weekend Walking-City Employees		$22.50		

Other municipally owned Golf Courses handle Veteran and City Employee discounts in different ways. Veteran discounts are typically given one day a month. City employee discounts vary, but other courses have reported that the discount has negatively impacted available tee times for other users. At Springfield, city employees must participate in a Wellness & Health program to earn discounts at City-owned golf courses. If it is Council's desire, staff can evaluate other ways to achieve discounts for Veterans and City Employees that would have less impact on revenue.

The proposed changes are as follows:

- Change the Green Fee 9 holes, weekday from $12.00 to $14.00
- Change the Green Fee 9 holes, weekend from $15.00 to $17.00
- Change the Green Fee 18 holes, weekday from $21.00 to $23.00
- Change the Green Fee 18 holes, weekend from $25.00 to $27.00

- Add Veterans to the Green Fee 9 holes, weekday senior $9.00
- Add Veterans to the Green Fee 9 holes, weekend senior $12.00
- Add Veterans to the Green Fee 18 holes, weekday senior $15.00
- Add Veterans to the Green Fee 18 holes, weekend senior $20.00
- Create City Employee Green Fee 9 holes, weekday $11.00
- Create City Employee Green Fee 9 holes, weekend $13.50
- Create City Employee Green Fee 18 holes, weekday $19.00
- Create City Employee Green Fee 18 holes, weekend $22.50
- Change the Golf Cart, 9 holes per person fee from $11.00 to $12.00
- Change the Golf Cart 18 holes per person fee from $18.00 to $19.00
- Add Veterans to the Golf senior annual pass fee $800.00
- Add Veterans to the Golf senior with cart annual pass fee $1,400.00
- Add definition of Veterans
- Add definition of City Employee

It should be noted that while greens fees are increasing to offset the discount, this council bill does not include a corresponding increase in the season pass fees.

The fee changes will be effective on June 1, 2026.

FUNDING SOURCE
This item is not applicable. This has been estimated to be approximately revenue neutral.

RECOMMENDATION
Staff presents this council bill for Council consideration without a recommendation.