CITY OF JOPLIN
COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM

ITEM
Council Bill 2025-546 – Approving certain fee changes in the fire department

MEETING DATE
November 17, 2025

ORIGINATING DEPT
Finance

ATTACHMENTS
CB 2025-546 Ordinance

REVIEWED BY
Department Head: Leslie Haase; Fire Chief: Gerald Ezell; City Attorney: Peter Edwards; City Manager: Nick Edwards

SUMMARY
This Council Bill changes certain existing fees in the fire department.

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. As detailed in the biennial user fee review, certain user fees need to be increased to recover more of the costs associated with providing these services.

In the fee review, staff proposed various changes to fire department fees.

The proposed changes are as follows:

- Change the land clearing fee from $50.00 to $150.00 and extend the permit period from three days to five days
- Change the hood suppression inspection fee from $75.00 to $150.00
- Change the underground sprinkler inspection fee from $100.00 to $150.00
- Change the fireworks stand fee from $225.00 to $250.00

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

FUNDING SOURCE
This revenue is included in the fiscal year 2026 general fund budget.

RECOMMENDATION
Staff recommends this council bill be approved on first reading.

COUNCIL BILL NO. 2025-546 ORDINANCE NO.

AN ORDINANCE repealing Section 58-1, Bonfires and outdoor rubbish fires, Article I, In General, and Section 58-68, Schedule of Fees, Article II, Fire Prevention Code, Division 2, International Fire Code, of Chapter 58, Fire Prevention and Protection, of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Joplin and enacting in lieu thereof a new Section 58-1, Bonfires and outdoor rubbish fires, Article I, In General, and Section 58-68, Schedule of Fees, Article II, Fire Prevention Code, Division 2, International Fire Code, of Chapter 58, Fire Prevention and Protection, of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Joplin to implement certain fee changes; and setting a date when this Ordinance shall become effective.

WHEREAS, the City performed the biennial fee review and the cost of services has increased and exceeds revenues; and,

WHEREAS, the Council of the City of Joplin desires to increase fees to meet the reasonable expenditures of this function.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the City of Joplin, Missouri, as follows:

Section 1. That Section 58-1, Bonfires and outdoor rubbish fires, Article I, In General, of Chapter 58, Fire Prevention and Protection, be repealed and a new Section 58-1, Bonfires and outdoor rubbish fires, Article I, In General, of Chapter 58, Fire Prevention and Protection of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Joplin be enacted in lieu thereof to read as follows:

"**ARTICLE I. IN GENERAL**

Sec. 58-1. - Bonfires and outdoor rubbish fires.

No person shall light, kindle or maintain any residential vegetative waste fire or a recreational bonfire, or authorize any open burning, without a permit from the fire chief or his designee.

(1) Such permitted fires shall be limited to piles in size as follows:

a. On any residential lot less than ¾ acre in size, the size of any pile shall be less than three feet in diameter by two feet high.

b. On any lot of ¾ acre or more in size but less than five acres, the size of any piles shall be less than 12 feet in diameter by six feet high and must have clearance of at least 200 feet from any structure.

c. Burning is allowed during daylight hours only.

(2) Burning relating to land clearing may be allowed at the discretion of the fire chief or his designee only upon the following conditions:

a. Any person wishing to conduct a burn related to land clearing must submit a detailed plan for the burn site with 24-hour contact information for the supervisor of the burn site.

b. Such a person must also obtain a permit from the Missouri Department of Natural Resources prior to receiving any permit from the City of Joplin.
c. Such a person must obtain a land clearing permit from the City of Joplin for each five days which the burn will be operating. The permit fee shall be $150.00 per each five-day period.
d. Only burns using air curtain destructors shall be allowed.
e. Such a person must insure that the burn is supervised by at least one person continuously when the burn is active.
f. Such person must insure that a method of completely extinguishing the burn is present on-site at all times the burn is active.
g. No such permit shall issue unless proper clearance is present. For purposes of this article proper clearance shall be at least 300 yards from any structure or paved roadway.

(3) Burning of vegetative waste material or rubbish for disposal or warming during construction, demolition of buildings or structures is strictly prohibited. Exceptions will be made for contained outdoor cooking fires, barbeque or smoking fires within approved grills, smokers, spits, fire pans, chimneys or outdoor fireplaces.

(4) The fee for a burn permit is set out in section 58-68 of this Code."

Section 2. That Section 58-68, Schedule of Fees, Article II, Fire Prevention Code, Division 2, International Fire Code, of Chapter 58, Fire Prevention and Protection, be repealed and a new Section 58-68, Schedule of Fees, Article II, Fire Prevention Code, Division 2, International Fire Code, of Chapter 58, Fire Prevention and Protection of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Joplin be enacted in lieu thereof to read as follows:

"ARTICLE II. FIRE PREVENTION CODE

DIVISION 2. INTERNATIONAL FIRE CODE

Sec. 58-68. Schedule of Fees.

The following is a schedule of the fire department permit fees:

(1) *Plan Review.* Where a fire plan review is required for any reason, fees shall be collected for such plan review as follows:
- a. *Fire Commercial Plan Review* fee shall be .001 multiplied by the value of the project, with a maximum cap of $2,500.00 per plan review.
  - i. The value of the project in this section shall be computed by one of the following methods and approved by the Fire Marshal, but in no case shall the value of the project be less than the minimum set forth in this section.
    - a) Provided by the person applying for the permit and verified by the Fire Marshal.
    - b) Calculated using the Building Valuation Data published in the Building Safety Journal each February issue (on file in the City Clerk's office) based on square footage

of the project, and modified for the City of Joplin, using a multiplier of 0.87.

ii. The minimum value of the project shall be calculated using the Building Valuation Data published in the Building Safety Journal each February issue (on file in the City Clerk's office) based on square footage of the project, and modified for the City of Joplin, using a multiplier of .65.

b. *Sprinkler/Standpipe Plan Review* fee shall be $200.00 for commercial permits and $50.00 for residential permits.

c. *Alarm System Plan Review* fee shall be $200.00 for commercial permits and $50.00 for residential permits.

(2) *Inspection Fees.* Where an inspection for an underground sprinkler system or a hood suppression system is required for any reason, fees shall be collected as follows:

a. *Underground Sprinkler Inspection* fee shall be $150.00 for commercial permits.

b. *Hood Suppression Inspection* fee shall be $150.00 for commercial permits.

(3) *Permit Fees.* No permit will be issued prior to the plan review process or prior to the beginning of construction.

a. *Operational Permit fee*. Operational permits, as referenced in the International Fire Code, may be revoked by the Fire Marshal at any time for cause. Operational permits shall be $100.00 per permit.

(4) *Burn Permit Fees.*

a. *General Burn Permit Fee.* A general burn permit shall be issued prior to any such burning inside the City of Joplin. A general burn permit for piles less than 3 feet diameter by 2 feet high shall cost $10.00. A burn permit shall be valid for up to three consecutive days. Prior to burning, a holder of a valid burn permit must contact the Joplin Fire Department to obtain permission to burn on that given day.

(5) *Reinspection Fees.*

a. There will be a reinspection fee when extra inspections are necessary due to any of the following reasons:

1) When wrong address is provided.
2) When work is not ready for inspection when called.
3) When work is not installed in compliance with city ordinances and/or applicable codes
4) In any other event that is of no fault of city inspectors.

For each trip, residential: $25.00, commercial/industrial: $50.00.

(6) *Firework Stand Fees.*
   a. $250.00 per calendar year as referenced in Section 58-66.

(7) *Fee Review Process.*
City Council shall review the costs of services with all user fees at least on a biennial basis during the budget process to determine the appropriateness of the fees charge."

Section 3. That this ordinance shall become effective on January 1, 2026.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JOPLIN, MISSOURI, this

_____ day of _____, 2025.

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Keenan T. Cortez, Sr., Mayor

ATTEST:

_____
Holly Nagy, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

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Peter C. Edwards, City Attorney