CITY OF JOPLIN
COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM

ITEM
Council Bill 2025-547 – Approving certain fee changes in the parks department

MEETING DATE
November 17, 2025

ORIGINATING DEPT
Finance

ATTACHMENTS
CB 2025-547 Ordinance

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 in the parks 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 parks department fees.

The proposed changes are as follows:

- Change the lot space fee from $700.00 to $750.00
- Change the grave opening/close fee from $700.00 to $750.00
- Change the cremains fee from $300.00 to $350.00
- Change the cremains fee with set-up from $350.00 to $400.00
- Change the columbarium-single niche fee from $1,000.00 to $1,100.00
- Change the columbarium-companion niche fee from $1,400.00 to $1,500.00

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. 2025-547 ORDINANCE NO.

AN ORDINANCE repealing Section 34-2, Prices of lots and grave rights; charge for setting stones, of Chapter 34, Cemeteries, of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Joplin and enacting in lieu thereof a new Section 34-2, Prices of lots and grave rights; charge for setting stones, of Chapter 34, Cemeteries, 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 34-2, Prices of lots and grave rights; charge for setting stones, of Chapter 34, Cemeteries, be repealed and a new Section 34-2, Prices of lots and grave rights; charge for setting stones, of Chapter 34, Cemeteries of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Joplin be enacted in lieu thereof to read as follows:

"Sec. 34-2. Prices of lots and grave rights; charge for setting stones.

(A) Charge for lots, grave rights, and setting stones:

(1) Lot space…….$750.00
(2) Grave opening/close…….$750.00
(3) Grave opening/close-Infants……..$225.00
(4) Grave marker (*cost per square inch)……..*$0.55
(5) Cremains …….$350.00
(6) Cremains including set up…….$400.00
(7) Columbarium-Single niche, includes opening/closing and some engraving…..$1,100.00
(8) Columbarium-Companion niche, includes opening/closing and some engraving……$1,500.00

(B) An additional charge of $150.00 for grave opening shall be made for any openings when the procession enters the ceremony later than 4:00 p.m. on Monday through Friday and on Saturday before noon. On Saturday after 12:00 noon, the charge shall be the base of $500.00 plus the hourly rate of $150.00 for each additional hour.

(C) City council shall review the costs of services associated with all user fees at least on a biennial basis during the budget process to determine the appropriateness of the fees charge."

Section 2. That this ordinance shall become effective on January 1, 2026.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JOPLIN, MISSOURI, this _____ day of _____, 2025.

_____
Keenan T. Cortez, Sr., Mayor

ATTEST:

_____
Holly Nagy, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

_____
Peter C. Edwards, City Attorney