CITY OF JOPLIN
COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM

ITEM
Council Bill 2025-550 – Approving certain fee changes in the advertising regulations

MEETING DATE
November 17, 2025

ORIGINATING DEPT
Finance

ATTACHMENTS
CB 2025-550 Ordinance

REVIEWED BY
Department Head: Leslie Haase; Planning & Community Development Director: Troy Bolander; City Attorney: Peter Edwards; City Manager: Nick Edwards

SUMMARY
This Council Bill changes certain existing fees in the planning and zoning 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 planning and zoning department fees.

The proposed changes are as follows:

- Change the detached sign permit fee from $1.50 per square foot to $2.00 per square foot
- Change the attached sign permit fee from $2.50 per square foot to $3.00 per square foot
- Change the billboard sign permit fee from $2.50 per square foot to $3.00 per square foot

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

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

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

COUNCIL BILL NO. 2025-550 ORDINANCE NO.

AN ORDINANCE repealing Section 6-35, Permit, Article II, Signs, of Chapter 6, Advertising, of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Joplin and enacting in lieu thereof a new Section 6-35, Permit, Article II, Signs, of Chapter 6, Advertising, 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 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; and,

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

Section 1. That Section 6-35, Permit, Article II, Signs, of Chapter 6, Advertising, be repealed and a new Section 6-35, Permit, Article II, Signs, of Chapter 6, Advertising of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Joplin be enacted in lieu thereof to read as follows:

"**ARTICLE II. SIGNS**

Sec. 6-35. Permit.

(a) *Required.* Except as otherwise provided in this article, it is unlawful for any person to erect, alter, relocate, create by painting or maintain a sign within the city without first obtaining a permit from the chief building official.
(b) *Application.* Application for a permit required by the provisions of this article shall be made to the chief building official. Such application shall be accompanied by plans and specifications for the sign as required by this article, and a description of the location of the sign, as necessary to fully advise the chief building official of the construction of the sign.
(c) *Issuance.* If the plans and specifications accompanying the application for a permit required by this article shall be in accordance with the provisions of the city's building code, the chief building official shall issue such permit.
(d) *Display of permit number on sign.* No sign shall hereafter be erected unless a label permanently affixed thereto shall be clearly and visibly displayed at all times indicating the number of the permit issued therefor.
(e) *Expiration.* Every sign permit issued by the chief building official shall become null and void if work on the sign is not commenced within 180 days from the date of such permit. If work authorized by such permit is suspended or abandoned for 90 days after the work is commenced, the sign shall be considered abandoned unless a new permit shall be first obtained to proceed with the work on the sign and the fee will be one-half the original fee,

provided that no changes have been made in the original plans. No permit shall be renewed more than once.

(f) *Submission of plans.* Every applicant for a sign permit shall file with the application a plan showing the height of the sign from the street grade to the top of the sign, the height of the bottom of the sign from street grade, a view of the sign showing the total effective area and copy, the setbacks from all street lines and property lines, and the type and size of all support structures.

(g) *Fees.* The fee for the erection of any sign, except portable signs, shall be as follows:
   (1) For attached signs the fee shall be $3.00 per square foot of the total effective area.
   (2) For detached signs the fee shall be $2.00 per square foot of the total effective area, but in no instance shall the permit fee for a detached sign be less than $25.00.
   (3) For billboards, the fee shall be $3.00 per square foot of the total effective area.

(h) *Fees for portable signs.* All portable signs shall have a permit with a unique number assigned and permanently affixed to the sign. The permit fee for portable signs shall be paid annually in the amount of $100.00 per sign. Each portable sign shall be levied an inspection fee of $25.00 on each occasion it is moved to a new location or moved within the property where originally set. The owner of the sign and the operator of the sign business shall be jointly and severally liable for all applicable fees. The city shall have the power to sue the owner of the sign or the owner of the sign businesses in a civil action and receive any such sums due, plus a reasonable attorney's fee to be fixed by the court.

(i) *Denial, suspension or revocation.* The chief building official may, in writing, suspend, deny or revoke a permit issued under the provisions of this section whenever the permit is issued on the basis of a misstatement of fact, fraud or noncompliance with this article. When a sign permit is denied by the chief building official, he shall give written notice of the denial to the applicant, together with a brief written statement of the reason for the denial. Such denials shall have referenced the section of the sign code or other pertinent code used as a standard for the basis of denial.

(j) *Fee review process.* 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