City of Joplin City Council Agenda Item

REQUESTED COUNCIL MEETING DATE: DECEMBER 4, 2017

ITEM: COUNCIL BILL NO. 2017-531
ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT: FINANCE DEPARTMENT

Department Head: Leslie Haase
Parks Director: Paul Bloomberg
City Attorney: Peter Edwards
City Manager: Sam Anselm

INTRODUCTION:
This Council Bill changes certain existing fees in the cemetery division of the parks department.

DISCUSSION:
The City recently completed the biennial user fee review, which was discussed with City Council at the budget work session on September 6, 2017. 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 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 cemetery fees.

The proposed changes are as follows:

- Change the grave opening/closing fee from $400.00 to $500.00
- Change the grave opening/closing infant fee from $100.00 to $200.00
- Change the cremains fee from $125.00 to $200.00
- Change the cremains with setup fee from $200.00 to $275.00
- Change the columbarium companion fee from $1,000.00 to $1,100.00

The fee changes will be effective on February 1, 2018.

RECOMMENDATION:
City Staff recommends this Council Bill be approved on first reading.