

CITY OF WARRENSBURG

August 6, 2021

Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council City of Warrensburg, Missouri

Dear Mayor and Council Members:

SUBJECT: An Ordinance Amending Section 8-56 of the Code of Ordinances Concerning Court Costs for the City of Warrensburg, Missouri

BACKGROUND:

The Missouri Office of State Courts Administrator and Missouri Court Automation Committee have been designing policies and procedures for the new Show-Me Courts automation system for a few years. The Warrensburg municipal court will now be transitioning over to the state automated court system, and a new court cost will be imposed by state law on all cases. This is the \$7 court automation fee. As a result, the city must update its ordinance – which is attached – with the necessary changes. This ordinance is worded to “spring” into effectiveness once the transition occurs, so the city doesn’t have to worry about threading the needle on the timing of the switch. This will likely have some small impact on overall court receipts, as many of our charges were capped at \$225 for all fines and costs and an increase in costs decreases what our fine portion can be on those cases that involve a maximum fine. On the positive side, a recent court ruling struck down a \$3.00 cost, so the net effect of this change will be \$4.00. This ordinance repeals the \$3.00 that was struck down as well.

ISSUE: To consider an ordinance updating the City’s codes relating to municipal court costs.

STRATEGIC PLAN:

N/A

FISCAL IMPACT:

This will likely have some small impact on overall court receipts, as many of our charges were capped at \$225 for all fines and costs, and obviously an increase in costs eats into what our fine portion can be on those cases that involve a maximum fine.

ECONOMIC BENEFITS/IMPACT:

N/A

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval of the ordinance.

Sincerely,

Danielle Dulin
Interim City Manager

Attachments: 1. Ordinance