

**COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE**  
Inter-office Communication

DATE: 11/7/2022  
TO: Marcelia Nicholson, Chair, County Board of Supervisors  
FROM: Donna Brown-Martin, Director, Department of Transportation  
SUBJECT: From the Director, Department of Transportation recommending approval of not-to-exceed rates for freeway towing services effective January 1, 2023.  
FILE TYPE: Action Report

**REQUEST**

Approval of not-to-exceed rates for freeway towing services effective January 1, 2023.

**POLICY**

Freeway towing is governed generally by Wisconsin Statute 349.13(4). Within this overall statutory framework, freeway towing within Milwaukee County is governed by Appendix C Section 23 of the Milwaukee County Code of Ordinances (the Ordinance).

Pursuant to the Ordinance, the Milwaukee County Board shall establish not-to-exceed rates governing freeway towing services, which shall be included as a mandatory contract specification.

**BACKGROUND**

Removal of vehicular hazards to freeway travel is at the sole discretion of the Milwaukee County Sheriff's Office. The freeway towing program is administered on behalf of the Sheriff's Office, by ordinance, through the Milwaukee County Department of Transportation Director's Office (MCDOT). Freeway towing is currently divided into five geographic sectors covering Milwaukee County (refer to attached sector map).

The MCDOT, in conjunction with the Department of Administrative Services Procurement Division, sought soliciting responses from interested vendors to provide freeway towing services. The Department, by separate resolution, is requesting County Board approval of freeway towing services contracts beginning January 1, 2023. The not-to-exceed rates that qualified contracted vendors will be allowed to charge for freeway towing service provided to the traveling public must be approved simultaneously.

The current rates have been in place since June of 2016 and are requested to be increased. The requested increase will ensure that Milwaukee County attracted sufficient competition by allowing towers to charge competitive rates as well as cover Milwaukee County's cost for ongoing program oversight and administration. The current and proposed rates including a comparison of proposed changes are provided as an attachment to this memorandum.

The proposed rates are based upon market research conducted by MCDOT during June 2022 and reflect fees charged by a variety of towing vendors including current and prospective vendors for services provided to municipalities throughout Milwaukee County.

ALIGNMENT TO STRATEGIC PLAN

Describe how the item aligns to the strategic plan:

- 1C: Increase the number of County contracts awarded to minority and women-owned businesses.
- 3B: Enhance the County's fiscal health and sustainability.

RECOMMENDATION

The Director of the Milwaukee County Department of Transportation requests approval of the proposed towing rates for an effective date beginning January 1, 2023.

FISCAL EFFECT

It is anticipated that the Milwaukee County Department of Transportation's Director's Office will experience a minimal revenue increase because of the requested not-to-exceed towing rates.

VIRTUAL MEETING INVITES

Julie Esch, Deputy Director, Department of Transportation  
Captain Jeremy Franke, Milwaukee County Sheriff's Office

PREPARED BY:

Julie Esch, Deputy Director, Department of Transportation

APPROVED BY:

*Julie Esch, Deputy Director*

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Donna Brown-Martin  
Director, Department of Transportation

ATTACHMENTS:

Report, Resolution/Ordinance, Fiscal Note, Rate Comparison Sheet

cc: Kelly Bablitch, Chief of Staff, County Board of Supervisors  
Janelle M. Jensen, Legislative Services Division Manager, Office of the County Clerk