

Ordinance #2023-26

AN ORDINANCE BY THE MUNICIPALITY OF PRINCETON REGULATING TOWING SERVICE FEES AND AMENDING THE “CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY, 1968.”

WHEREAS, the Police Department is responsible for enforcing Chapter 11A of the “Code of the Township of Princeton, New Jersey, 1968,” entitled “Towing and Storage;” and

WHEREAS, at this time the Police Department recommends that Article VII of Chapter 11A, entitled “Towing and Storage Fee Schedules,” be amended to enable the Municipality of Princeton to more regularly update the fee schedule for towing, storage and related services to ensure consistency with market conditions applicable to same.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Princeton Council as follows:

Section 1. Article VII of Chapter 11A of the “Code of the Township of Princeton, New Jersey, 1968,” entitled “Towing and Storage Fee Schedules,” shall be amended to read as follows:

(additions are underlined and deletions are [bracketed]):

CHAPTER 11A. TOWING AND STORAGE

ARTICLE VII. TOWING AND STORAGE FEE SCHEDULES.

Sec. 11A-24. Schedule of fees for towing and other services when the request is initiated by the police department.

~~[(a)—The following fees are established for towing and other services rendered for motor vehicles when the request is initiated by the police department:~~

Service—Day, Nights	Weekends and Holidays	Fee
Basic tow (vehicles		
up to three-quarter ton).....		\$140.00
Heavy-duty towing (vehicles		
over three-quarter ton).....		\$300.00

~~(b) — Services not included in a basic tow, as defined in sec. 11A-3.~~

Decoupling.....	\$75.00
Service fee.....	\$75.00
Site clean up.....	\$25.00 per hour, plus cost of absorbent
Winching.....	\$100.00

~~— (c) — In the event additional services are performed that are not enumerated in subsection (b), including tows involving unusual or unforeseen circumstances, the fees for those services shall be determined by mutual agreement of the tower and the vehicle owner, operator or insurer, provided that such fees shall not exceed reasonable and customary rates for the same services in the Mercer County/Somerset County/Middlesex County area.]~~

The Chief of Police shall recommend to Council a rate schedule for towing and related fees to be charged by a tower in the municipality pursuant to this chapter. The fee schedule shall be established by Resolution of Council and shall conform to the requirements of N.J.S.A. 40:48-2.54. From time to time, the Chief shall review said fees and recommend to Council updates thereto as may be necessary.

Sec. 11A-25. Schedule of fees for storage services for motor vehicles.

[The following fees for each twenty four hour period for storage services of motor vehicles are hereby established:

Storage — Days, Nights

~~Weekends and Holidays~~ ————— ~~Fee~~

~~Outdoor secure storage facility~~

~~Vehicles up to three-quarter ton.....\$25.00 per day~~

~~Vehicles over three-quarter ton~~

~~(i.e., trucks, tractors and trailers)..... \$2.00 per running foot per day~~

~~Indoor secure storage facility~~

~~Vehicles up to three-quarter ton..... \$50.00 per day~~

~~Vehicles over three-quarter ton~~

~~(i.e., trucks, tractors and trailers).....\$4.00 per running foot per day]~~

(a) The Chief of Police shall recommend to Council a fee schedule for storage of vehicles at towers' storage locations. The storage rate schedule shall be established by Resolution of Council. From time to time, the Chief shall review said fees and recommend to Council updates thereto as may be necessary.

(b) All storage fees to be paid by Princeton shall be governed by N.J.S.A. 40:48-2.50, as the same may be amended from time to time.

Sec. 11A-26. Notice of rates.

(a) The fee schedule established pursuant to sections 11A-24 and 11A-25 above shall be made available to the public by the Princeton Clerk's office and Police Department during regular business hours and posted on the municipal website.

(b) Prior to hookup or placement of a motor vehicle on a flat bed tow truck, the tower shall present a copy of [the] Princeton's fee schedule [~~as set forth in section 11A-24 and section 11A-25~~] to the owner or operator of the motor vehicle. The fee schedule shall also contain the name, address and telephone number of the tower, its hours of operation, and a statement of when the motor vehicle may be claimed. The fee schedule shall also be prominently displayed at the storage facility.

Section 2. All ordinances and resolutions or parts thereof inconsistent with this ordinance are repealed.

Section 3. If any section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase or portion of this ordinance is for any reason held invalid or unconstitutional by any court of competent jurisdiction, such portion shall be deemed a separate, distinct, and independent provision, and such holding shall not affect the validity of the remaining portion thereof.

Section 4. The provisions of this ordinance shall be applicable within Princeton upon taking effect and shall become a part of the new Princeton Code once completed and adopted. This ordinance shall take effect upon its final adoption and publication as provided for by law.

Rayna E. Harris, Municipal Clerk

Mark Freda, Mayor

Ordinance Introduced: July 24, 2023
Ordinance Adopted: August 14, 2023

NEWSPAPER PUBLICATIONS:

First Insertion: July 28, 2023
Final Insertion: August 25, 2023

This ordinance updates the provisions governing the fees for towing and related services to be charged by towers in Princeton and enables Council to establish and update, as appropriate, the applicable fees by resolution.