

5.15 of the RMC. One of the amendments would require the City, subject to the availability of budgeted funds, to reimburse towing companies with a contractual relationship with the City of Riverside for the removal and disposal of junk motorhomes at a cost of up to \$1,500 per occurrence upon proof of disposal.

The removal and disposal of large oversized motorhomes can be costly for the towing companies but is a required service per the Official Police Tow Truck Service Agreements. Currently, towing companies are expected to remove and dispose of junk motorhomes without additional compensation from the owner of the vehicle or the City of Riverside. It is an unreasonable expectation for the towing companies to continue to provide this service at a financial loss to the company; however, it is also a valuable service needed by the Riverside Police Department (RPD).

DISCUSSION:

The term “junk motorhome” refers to abandoned and/or illegally parked motorhomes in the City of Riverside requiring removal and/or disposal. These junk motorhomes are a quality of life issue for residents. There are generally two ways in which the junk motorhomes become an issue for residents:

1. The owner of the motorhome no longer wants to or is unable to maintain the motorhome and therefore removes the VIN numbers and license plates from the motorhomes and abandons the motorhome on a city street.
2. A person may be using the motorhome as their means of residence, but will abandon the location because they have moved on, were arrested and remained in prison for an extended period of time, or are no longer able to maintain the motorhome, but do not have the resources to have it removed and it is left abandoned on a city street.

In either scenario, the abandoned motorhomes become an eyesore and a potential safety concern for residents.

The Riverside Police Department and the City Manager’s Office have conducted extensive negotiations with the towing companies regarding RMC Chapter 5.15 and the Official Police Tow Truck Service Agreements. The removal and disposal of junk motorhomes has been a major concern for all parties. The towing companies have agreed that a reimbursable amount of up to \$1,500 per occurrence is adequate compensation for the removal and disposal of junk motorhomes. Staff considered the number of junk motorhomes removed and disposed of over recent years and determined that the establishment of an account in the annual amount of \$45,000 is sufficient for the reimbursement of towing contractors for the removal and disposal of junk motorhomes.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The FY 2020/21 fiscal impact of establishing the account for the reimbursement of towing contractors for the removal and disposal of junk motorhomes is the annual amount of up to \$45,000. Towing contractors will be eligible to receive up to \$1,500 for each time they are required to remove and dispose of a junk motorhome once proof of disposal with disposal costs is provided. The cumulative fiscal impact of the ongoing amount in the Measure Z five-year spending plan

(2021-2025) is \$225,000 (Attachment 1).

Prepared by: Larry W. Gonzalez, Chief of Police
Certified as to
availability of funds: Edward Enriquez, Chief Financial Officer/Treasurer
Approved by: Lea Deesing, Assistant City Manager
Approved as to form: Gary G. Geuss, City Attorney

Attachments:

1. Measure Z Spending Plan
2. Presentation