

**ORDINANCE 2025 - 19**  
**TO AMEND TITLE 15 OF THE BLOOMINGTON MUNICIPAL CODE**  
**ENTITLED “VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC”**

**Re: Chapters 15.48 and 15.52 – Updating Permissible Towing and Storage Charges  
for Authorized Towing Services**

- WHEREAS, In 2020, the City of Bloomington (hereafter “City”) passed Ordinance 20-10, which updated the maximum amount that authorized towing services may charge for tows initiated at the request of the City; and,
- WHEREAS, The City has not updated said charges since Ordinance 20-10 was adopted five years ago; and
- WHEREAS, The Common Council finds that the maximum amount authorized towing services may charge for city-initiated tows is out of line with those permitted by Monroe County and the Indiana State Police; and
- WHEREAS, The Common Council finds that the charges for showing up, towing, and storage are outdated and should be amended to reflect more accurately the costs associated with towing services and current market pricing; and
- WHEREAS, The Common Council finds that charges for heavy tow services pursuant to police contract should be specified in the Bloomington Municipal Code.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY ORDAINED BY THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BLOOMINGTON, MONROE COUNTY, INDIANA, THAT:

SECTION 1. Section 15.48.020 of the Bloomington Municipal Code entitled “Removal and impoundment procedure” is hereby amended as reflected in Section 15.48.020 in “Attachment 1,” such that it reads as follows:

**15.48.020 - Removal and impoundment procedure.**

- (a) Any member of the Bloomington Police Department or parking enforcement officer discovering a public nuisance as described in Section 15.48.010 shall cause the vehicle to be removed by an authorized towing service. When the owner or operator of a motor vehicle appears personally at the site of the tow before the vehicle is in the process of being towed, the vehicle shall not be towed nor shall any fee be charged. However, when the owner or operator of a motor vehicle arrives at the site of the tow when the vehicle is already in the process of being towed, the authorized towing service shall give the owner or operator either oral or written notification that the owner or operator may pay a fee in the amount that is not greater than half of the amount of the fee the authorized towing service would normally charge for the immediate release of a motor vehicle. For purposes of this section, a motor vehicle is in the process of being towed when it is attached to the tow truck and at least two tires of the vehicle are off the ground.
- (b) A vehicle towed under this chapter shall be available to be claimed within sixty minutes of its arrival at a vehicle storage facility, and the vehicle shall be released promptly upon demonstration of proof of ownership, such as title or registration of vehicle and Payment of fees, including an administrative towing fee of \$25.00 to the City of Bloomington, and any fees in relation to reserved parking violations and outstanding citation violations.

(Ord. 08-19 § 41 (part), 2008; Ord. 82-1 § 1 (part), 1982).

(Ord. No. 11-03, § 7, 4-6-2011; Ord. No. 14-11, § 142, 7-2-2014; Ord. No. 20-10, § 1, 6-3-2020; Ord. No. 22-20, § 10, 8-3-2022)

SECTION 2. Section 15.48.030 of the Bloomington Municipal Code entitled “Towing and storage charges” is hereby deleted and replaced as reflected in the amended Section 15.48.030 in “Attachment 1,” such that it reads as follows:

**15.48.030 – Towing and storage charges.**

The maximum amount that an authorized towing service may charge for hooking up, towing, or removing a vehicle under this chapter may not exceed \$150.00, except where special treatment may be required. Special treatment that includes the use of dollies or skates may not exceed an additional \$50.00. Special treatment that includes the use of winching may not exceed \$150.00. The maximum amount that may be charged for storage of vehicles shall not exceed \$30.00 per day. The storage fee may begin to accrue after twenty-four hours have passed since the vehicle arrived at the storage facility. The storage fee may incorporate an additional fee of not to exceed \$75.00 if pick up is made outside of business hours as defined in the police contract. The cost of a heavy tow for vehicles weighing more than 10,001 pounds shall include an additional fee of \$450.00. A towing service may charge an administrative fee not to exceed \$25.

SECTION 3. Section 15.52.060 of the Bloomington Municipal Code entitled “Maximum towing and storage charges” is hereby deleted and replaced as reflected in the amended Section 15.52.060 in “Attachment 1,” such that it reads as follows:

**15.52.060 – Maximum towing and storage charges.**

The maximum amount that an authorized towing service may charge for hooking up, towing, or removing a vehicle under this chapter may not exceed \$150.00, except where special treatment may be required. Special treatment that includes the use of dollies or skates may not exceed an additional \$50.00. Special treatment that includes the use of winching may not exceed an additional \$150.00. The maximum amount that may be charged for storage of vehicles shall not exceed \$30.00 per day. The storage fee may begin to accrue after twenty-four hours have passed since the vehicle arrived at the storage facility. The storage fee may incorporate an additional fee of not to exceed \$75.00 if pick up is made outside of business hours as defined in the police contract. The cost of a heavy tow for vehicles weighing more than 10,001 pounds shall include an additional fee of \$450.00. A towing service may charge an administrative fee not to exceed \$25.

SECTION 4: Section 15.52.065 of the Bloomington Municipal Code entitled “Release of vehicle” is hereby deleted and replaced as reflected in the amended Section 15.52.065 in “Attachment 1,” such that it reads as follows:

**15.52.065 – Release of vehicle.**

A vehicle towed under this chapter shall be available to be claimed within sixty minutes of its arrival at a vehicle storage facility, and the vehicle shall be released promptly upon demonstration of proof of ownership, such as title or registration of vehicle and payment of fees.


SECTION 5. If any section, sentence or provision of this ordinance, or the application thereof to any person or circumstances shall be declared invalid, such invalidity shall not affect any of the other sections, sentences, provisions, or applications of this ordinance which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this ordinance are declared to be severable.

SECTION 6. This ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage by the Common Council of the City of Bloomington, approval of the Mayor and all other requirements of the Indiana Code.


PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Common Council of the City of Bloomington, Monroe County, Indiana, upon this 17 day of December, 2025.

  
Hopi Stosberg, President  
Bloomington Common Council


ATTEST:

  
NICOLE BOLDEN, Clerk  
City of Bloomington

PRESENTED by me to the Mayor of the City of Bloomington, Monroe County, Indiana, upon this 22 day of December, 2025.

  
NICOLE BOLDEN, Clerk  
City of Bloomington

SIGNED and APPROVED by me upon this 23 day of December, 2025.

  
Kerry Thompson, Mayor  
City of Bloomington  
Thompson

SYNOPSIS

Ordinance 2025-19 updates the maximum charges authorized towing services may collect when performing city-initiated tows, to reflect more accurately the costs associated with towing services and current market pricing.

*Note: At the December 3, 2025 Regular Session, the Council adopted Amendment 01 to this ordinance. The amendment makes typographical corrections and moves the text regarding the \$450 surcharge for a heavy tow from 15.52.070 to 15.48.030 and 15.52.060 for full transparency. It deletes Section 4 of Ordinance 2025-19, removing any revisions to 15.52.070.*

*Note: At the December 17, 2025 Regular Session, the Council adopted Amendment 04 to this ordinance. The amendment amends the time period after which storage fees may be charged from twelve to twenty-four hours and requires business hours to be defined in the contractual agreement between the police and tow companies.*

*Note: At the December 17, 2025 Regular Session, the Council adopted Amendment 05 to this ordinance. The amendment allows a towing service to charge an administrative fee not to exceed \$25.*

Distributed to: Clerk, Council Attorney, Legal, Mayor, and Police.