



SHERIFF'S OFFICE Fort Bend County, Texas



Sheriff Troy E. Nehls
Chief Deputy David Marcaurele

To: Fort Bend County Commissioners Court
Date: 03-20-17
Re: Notification concerning receipt of a written request for Towing Fee Study

The Sheriff's Office has received a written request pursuant to Section X of Fort Bend County's Towing Regulations (the text of the request follows):

This email is a written request for a rate increase study as explained in Fort Bend County revised ordinance amend October 23, 2012.

Reasons for Increase:

- * In at least 3 incidents a rotator wrecker was called from out of the county to assist on on accidents. One was at 99/bellaire, another at 59/islieb, and 59/daily. Wreckers are having to call outside heavy wreckers to assist with accidents because we cannot pay for our equipment with the rates that are in place.
- * All around the nation the average heavy duty rate is \$500.00 an hour compared to Fort Bend County \$225.00. Rosenberg Police has given us \$400.00 an hour min 2 hours. Richmond Police is unregulated and we are charging \$350.00 per hour min 2 hours. Stafford is \$350.00 per hour min 2 hours. Wharotn County is \$375.00 with a 2 hour min.
- * Cost of equipment has doubled in price for a heavy duty. In 2012 a heavy duty wrecker cost was \$360,000.00 compared to now the cost is \$600,000.00

Thank you, Roel Buentello
Buentello Wrecker Service

Upon receipt I checked with the County Attorney's Office to determine appropriate manner to notify Commissioner's Court and was advised to request placement on Agenda for action.

Section X of the regulations reads as follows:

X. Towing Fee Studies

A. A person may file a written request for a Towing Fee Study at any time, but not more than once per year. The Sheriff's Office shall notify Commissioners Court upon receipt of a request.

B. Commissioners Court shall determine whether a Towing Fee Study is warranted. Commissioners Court is not absolutely obligated to order a Towing Fee Study.

C. If a Towing Fee Study is ordered, the Sheriff's Office shall collect relevant financial or accounting information regarding current maximum allowable fees to determine if such fees represent the fair value of the services provided. The Sheriff's Office shall present a recommendation to Commissioners Court based on this review.

D. Commissioners Court shall determine if the maximum allowable fee should be amended. Commissioners Court is not obligated to amend the maximum allowable fee if it determines that the existing fee represents the fair value of the services provided

We have not received any other written request in the last year and therefore present this matter to Commissioners Court for determination on whether a Towing Fee Study is warranted.

The Sheriff's Office is currently analyzing this matter and stands ready to provide input as needed.

As an FYI the following are the current rates for non consent tows by jurisdiction:

Fort Bend County –

Light Duty

Single wrecker	\$175
Assist wrecker	\$105
Winching Fee	\$50
Labor	\$50 per hour after first hour

Heavy Duty

Per Wrecker	\$225 per hour / 2 hour minimum
Winching Fee	\$250 per cable
Light Duty Assist	\$150 per hour / per wrecker
Light Duty Winching Fee Assist	\$50
Labor (not including driver)	\$50 per hour / per person
Optional recovery fee	\$.045 per pound non-contained
	\$.035 per pound contained

Also allows for additional charges negotiated with vehicle owner for removal of cargo spilled from large rigs or trailers

City of Sugar Land –

Light and Medium Vehicles (towed vehicle less than 25,000 lbs GVWR)

Standard	\$125
Assist wrecker	No provision for this
Other Services (winching/dolly/etc)	\$60 per hour (30 minute increments)
Labor	No provision for this
Mileage for over 10 miles (owner request)	\$2.00 per mile after 10 miles

Heavy Vehicles (towed vehicle above light/medium duty weights)

Towing Service	\$200 per hour / 2 hour minimum
Winching Fee	No provision for this
Light Duty Assist	No provision for this
Light Duty Winching Fee Assist	No provision for this
Labor (not including driver)	No provision for this

City of Fulshear-

Light Duty

Single wrecker	\$200
Assist wrecker	\$100
Winching Fee	\$100
Labor	No provision for this
Waiting Time	\$50 per hour
After 5 miles from City Limits	\$4.00 per mile

Heavy Duty

1 st Wrecker	\$500 per hour / 2 hour minimum
Winching Fee	No provision for this
Light Duty Assist	No provision for this
Light Duty Winching Fee Assist	No provision for this
Labor (not including driver)	No provision for this
Optional recovery fee	No provision for this
2 nd Wrecker	\$500 maximum / 1 hour minimum

Also allows for additional charges negotiated with vehicle owner for removal of cargo spilled from large rigs or trailers

City of Richmond-

Light Duty

Single wrecker	\$150
Assist wrecker	\$100
Winching Fee	No provision for this
Labor	No provision for this

Heavy Duty

No rate set on Heavy Duty

City of Missouri City-

Light Duty (GVWR not exceeding 10,000 pounds)

Tow fee	\$175
Assist wrecker	No provision for this
Winching Fee	\$75
Labor	No provision for this
Per mile fee after 10 miles	\$3.50 per mile

Heavy Duty (GVWR exceeding 10,000 pounds)

Tow fee	\$575
Winching Fee	\$175
Light Duty Assist	No provision for this
Light Duty Winching Fee Assist	No provision for this
Labor (not including driver)	No provision for this
Optional recovery fee	No provision for this
Per mile fee after 10 miles	\$3.50 per mile
Additional charge for fully loaded truck	\$675

Also allows for additional charges if request submitted and approved by Chief of Police or designee

City of Rosenberg-

Light Duty

Single wrecker	\$200
Assist wrecker	\$100
Winching Fee	\$50
Labor	No provision for this
Per mile charge after 5 miles	\$3.50 per mile

Heavy Duty (GVWR exceeding 10,000 pounds)

1 st Wrecker	\$400 per hour / 2 hour minimum
Winching Fee	No provision for this
Light Duty Assist	No provision for this
Light Duty Winching Fee Assist	No provision for this
Labor (not including driver)	No provision for this
Optional recovery fee	No provision for this
2 nd Wrecker	\$400 per hour / 1 hour minimum

Also allows for additional charges negotiated with vehicle owner for removal of cargo spilled from large rigs or trailers

Troy E. Nehls, Sheriff



By: David Marcaurele, Chief Deputy