

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)
)
COUNTY OF DARLINGTON)

ORDINANCE NO. 23-10

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND DARLINGTON COUNTY CODE OF ORDINANCES, CHAPTER 2 (ADMINISTRATION), ARTICLE V. (FINANCE), DIVISION 7 (FEES), TO INCREASE THE EMERGENCY SERVICES VEHICLE FEE; TO INCREASE THE RATE FOR MILEAGE REIMBURSEMENT; TO INCLUDE ANIMAL ADOPTION AND REDEMPTION FEES, AND TO ESTABLISH THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS ORDINANCE

PURPOSE

The purpose of this ordinance is to increase the Emergency Services Vehicle Fee from \$45 per vehicle to \$50 per vehicle to fund additional EMS staffing; to increase the rate for mileage reimbursement from \$0.545 per mile to \$0.655 per mile to match the standard rate of the state and IRS; and to include animal adoption and redemption fees.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED, by the governing body of Darlington County, South Carolina, the Darlington County Council that:

SECTION 1

Darlington County Code of Ordinances, Chapter 2 (Administration), Article V. (Finance), Division 7 (Fees), Section 2-401 (Emergency services vehicle fee required; vehicle owners.), **which currently reads:**

Sec. 2-401. Emergency services vehicle fee required; vehicle owners.

The owners of every vehicle, with the exception of manufactured homes and nonmotorized vehicles, required to be registered and licensed in the county by the South Carolina Department of Motor Vehicles shall pay annually to the county treasurer an emergency services vehicle fee of **\$45.00** on each such vehicle.

Be amended to read as follows:

Sec. 2-401. Emergency services vehicle fee required; vehicle owners.

The owners of every vehicle, with the exception of manufactured homes and nonmotorized vehicles, required to be registered and licensed in the county by the South Carolina Department of Motor Vehicles shall pay annually to the county treasurer an emergency services vehicle fee of **\$45.00** **\$50.00** on each such vehicle.

SECTION 2

Darlington County Code of Ordinances, Chapter 2 (Administration), Article V.

(Finance), Division 7 (Fees), Section 2-403 (Exemptions), **which currently reads:**

Sec. 2-403. Exemptions.

The following are exempted from the emergency services vehicle fee:

- (1) When an individual owns a vehicle which is not operated or nonoperational and such individual certifies this fact to the county auditor, therein certifying that the vehicle in question is not being operated on the roads of South Carolina, such individual shall be exempt from paying **the \$30.00 road maintenance fee** **and** the **\$15.00** emergency services vehicle fee for that vehicle.
- (2) Disabled veterans, disabled individuals, or organizations, as certified to the county auditor by the state department of revenue, pursuant to the following provisions of S.C. Code 1976, § 12-37-220, as amended, shall be exempt from paying the fee on two vehicles registered in their name. A **\$30.00 fee and a \$15.00** fee will be levied on all subsequent vehicles registered by the individual receiving the exemption:
 - a. Two private passenger vehicles owned or leased by any disabled veteran for which special license tags have been issued by the department of public safety under the provisions of [S.C. Code 1976,] §§ 56-3-1110 to 56-3-1130 or, in lieu of the license, if the veteran has a certificate signed by county service officer or the Veterans Administration of the total and permanent disability which must be filed with the department of public safety.
 - b. Two private passenger vehicles owned or leased by recipients of the Medal of Honor.
 - c. Two personal motor vehicles owned or leased either solely or jointly by persons required to use wheelchairs, who qualify for special license tags under the provisions of [S.C. Code 1976,] § 56-3-1910.
 - d. Two private passenger vehicles or trucks, not exceeding three-quarter ton, owned or leased by and licensed and registered in the name of any member or former member of the armed forces who was a prisoner of war (POW) in World War I, World War II, the Korean Conflict, or the Vietnam Conflict and who is a legal resident of this state. This exemption also extends to the surviving spouse of a qualified former POW for the lifetime or until the remarriage of the surviving spouse.
 - e. One personal motor vehicle owned or leased by a legal guardian of a minor who is blind or required to use a wheelchair when the vehicle is used to transport the minor.
- (3) All nonprofit and government vehicles shall be exempted from paying the **\$45.00** emergency services vehicle fee.

- (4) The emergency services vehicle fee shall be paid the same day any exempted there from vehicle is licensed for operation and any person not paying such fee shall be subject to the penalties set forth in this section. The first day of the month displayed on the license tag for a vehicle placed back in operation shall be deemed to be the first day of operation for the purpose of imposing any fee. Individuals shall not be subject to the fee for the years the vehicle was not licensed for operation and was exempt pursuant to this subsection. Thus exemption shall not be applied retroactively.
- (5) Personal property taxes on parked or nonoperational vehicles are still due and payable each year and are not in any way exempted, excused, or abated by this subsection.

Be amended to read as follows:

Sec. 2-403. Exemptions.

The following are exempted from the emergency services vehicle fee:

- (1) When an individual owns a vehicle which is not operated or nonoperational and such individual certifies this fact to the county auditor, therein certifying that the vehicle in question is not being operated on the roads of South Carolina, such individual shall be exempt from paying ~~the \$30.00 road maintenance fee and the \$15.00~~ **\$50.00** emergency services vehicle fee for that vehicle.
- (2) Disabled veterans, disabled individuals, or organizations, as certified to the county auditor by the state department of revenue, pursuant to the following provisions of S.C. Code 1976, § 12-37-220, as amended, shall be exempt from paying the fee on two vehicles registered in their name. A ~~\$30.00 fee and a \$15.00~~ **\$50.00** fee will be levied on all subsequent vehicles registered by the individual receiving the exemption:
 - a. Two private passenger vehicles owned or leased by any disabled veteran for which special license tags have been issued by the department of public safety under the provisions of [S.C. Code 1976,] §§ 56-3-1110 to 56-3-1130 or, in lieu of the license, if the veteran has a certificate signed by county service officer or the Veterans Administration of the total and permanent disability which must be filed with the department of public safety.
 - b. Two private passenger vehicles owned or leased by recipients of the Medal of Honor.
 - c. Two personal motor vehicles owned or leased either solely or jointly by persons required to use wheelchairs, who qualify for special license tags under the provisions of [S.C. Code 1976,] § 56-3-1910.
 - d. Two private passenger vehicles or trucks, not exceeding three-quarter ton, owned or leased by and licensed and registered in the name of any

member or former member of the armed forces who was a prisoner of war (POW) in World War I, World War II, the Korean Conflict, or the Vietnam Conflict and who is a legal resident of this state. This exemption also extends to the surviving spouse of a qualified former POW for the lifetime or until the remarriage of the surviving spouse.

- e. One personal motor vehicle owned or leased by a legal guardian of a minor who is blind or required to use a wheelchair when the vehicle is used to transport the minor.
- (3) All nonprofit and government vehicles shall be exempted from paying the ~~\$45.00~~ **\$50.00** emergency services vehicle fee.
- (4) The emergency services vehicle fee shall be paid the same day any exempted there from vehicle is licensed for operation and any person not paying such fee shall be subject to the penalties set forth in this section. The first day of the month displayed on the license tag for a vehicle placed back in operation shall be deemed to be the first day of operation for the purpose of imposing any fee. Individuals shall not be subject to the fee for the years the vehicle was not licensed for operation and was exempt pursuant to this subsection. Thus exemption shall not be applied retroactively.
- (5) Personal property taxes on parked or nonoperational vehicles are still due and payable each year and are not in any way exempted, excused, or abated by this subsection.

SECTION 3

Darlington County Code of Ordinances, Chapter 2 (Administration), Article V. (Finance), Division 7 (Fees) Section 2-404. (Authorization), **which currently reads:**

Sec. 2-404. Authorization.

The county auditor is hereby authorized to add a uniform emergency services vehicle fee of **\$45.00** per annum to all motorized licensed vehicles subject to the taxes in the county beginning with tax notices which become due July 1, 2006, and each month thereafter. The charge of **\$45.00** so added shall become due and payable at the time other personal property taxes become due and payable. Also, the auditor is hereby authorized to bill annually for plates issued to duly licensed motor vehicle dealers and wholesalers in the county by the South Carolina Department of Motor Vehicles.

Be amended to read as follows:

Sec. 2-404. Authorization.

The county auditor is hereby authorized to add a uniform emergency services vehicle fee of ~~\$45.00~~ **\$50.00** per annum to all motorized licensed vehicles subject to the taxes in the county beginning with tax notices which become due July 1, 2006, and each month thereafter. The charge of ~~\$45.00~~ **\$50.00** so added shall become due and payable at the time other personal property taxes become due and payable. Also, the auditor is hereby authorized to bill annually for plates issued to duly licensed motor vehicle dealers and wholesalers in the county by the South Carolina Department of Motor Vehicles.

SECTION 4

Darlington County Code of Ordinances, Chapter 2 (Administration), Article V. (Finance), Division 7 (Fees) Section 2-412. Fee schedule, Item 10, **which currently reads:**

(10) Mileage Reimbursement.....~~\$0.545~~ per mile

Be amended to read as follows:

(10) Mileage Reimbursement.....~~\$0.545~~ **\$0.655** per mile

SECTION 5

Darlington County Code of Ordinances, Chapter 2 (Administration), Article V. (Finance), Division 7 (Fees) Section 2-412. Fee schedule, Item 18, **which currently reads:**

(18) Emergency Services Vehicle Fee (Reference Code Section 2-401) ~~\$45.00~~

Be amended to read as follows:

(18) Emergency Services Vehicle Fee (Reference Code Section 2-401) ~~\$45.00~~ **\$50.00**

SECTION 6

Darlington County Code of Ordinances, Chapter 2 (Administration), Article V. (Finance), Division 7 (Fees) Section 2-412. Fee schedule,

Be amended by adding a new items to be numbered (1) Animal Adoption Fees and (2) Animal Redemption Fees as listed below and renumber the remaining items.

(1) **Animal Adoption Fees**
a. **\$100 adoption**

b. *\$50 for spay/neuter dogs (refunded to prospective owner after providing proof to the animal shelter that the sterilization procedure has been*

performed.)

- c. *\$25 for spay/neuter cats (refunded to prospective owner after providing proof to the animal shelter that the sterilization procedure has been performed.)*

(2) **Animal Redemption Fees** - If owners are entitled to resume possession of an impounded pet, and upon providing proper identification requirements, the redemption fees are as follows:

- a. \$25 base fee
- b. \$10 per day boarding fee *(for each day beyond a full day after the pet is impounded)*
- c. \$15 rabies inoculation fee, if applicable *(SC Code 1976, §47-3-40) (Fee waived upon owner providing proof of a valid rabies inoculation for the year in which the pet is being held.)*
- d. \$20 microchip fee, if applicable *(SC Code 1976 §47-3-55)*

SECTION 7

The provision of this ordinance shall be included and incorporated in the Code of Ordinances of the County of Darlington, as an addition or amendment thereto, and shall be appropriately renumbered to conform to the uniform numbering system of the Code.

SECTION 8

This ordinance shall become effective upon third reading.

ATTEST:



J. Janet Bishop
Clerk to Council

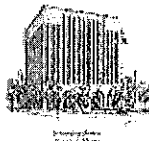
DARLINGTON COUNTY COUNCIL



Bobby Hudson, Chairman

FIRST READING: *June 5, 2023*
SECOND READING: *June 19, 2023*
PUBLIC HEARING: *July 3, 2023*
THIRD READING: *July 3, 2023*

Darlington County Recording Page



Darlington Clerk of Court / ROD

Scott B. Suggs

Darlington County Courthouse

1 Public Square - Room B-4

Darlington, SC 29532

(843) 398-4330

OrdinanceNo : **2023-03**



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