



Jim Owczarski
City Clerk

Keith Broadnax
LRB Manager

City Clerk's Office Legislative Reference Bureau

MEMORANDUM

To: Ald. Scott Spiker, 13th District
From: Ned Littlefield, Legislative Fiscal Analyst - Lead
Date: December 16, 2024
Subject: City Fees with Hardship Exemptions

You requested information on December 11 about City fees for which departments offer *hardship exemptions*, or waivers in case of payment difficulties, to the public. The LRB requested this information from relevant department leadership on December 11. To date, the LRB has received the following information.

None: The Common Council - City Clerk's Office / License Division, Department of City Development, Office of the City Treasurer, and Police Department (MPD) offer no hardship exemptions for fees.

Records: The Fire Department (MFD) and Municipal Court offer hardship exemptions for fees associated with record requests, such as printing. The Municipal Court also offers hardship exemptions for motions to reopen cases. The total number and value of hardship exemptions that the Municipal Court issues reportedly are minimal.

Vehicle retrieval: The Department of Public Works' Tow Lot charges \$150 for towed vehicle retrieval and \$20 per day for vehicle storage. The table below offers examples of vehicle types for which the Tow Lot considers issuing a hardship exemption.

<i>Type of vehicle</i>	<i>Exemptions issued in 2024</i>
Recovered stolen vehicles	1,136
Evidence vehicles, at MPD's discretion	421
Vehicles affected by: active military duty, death, financial challenges, hospitalization, or probate case of owners; disputes concerning ownership; or processing delays with the Wisconsin Department of Motor Vehicles	277

The LRB can update this memorandum as necessary, pending receipt of further information from departments about hardship exemptions.

LRB 180417