



Department of Administration
Budget and Management Division

Cavalier Johnson
Mayor

Preston Cole
Administration Director

Nik Kovac
Budget and Management Director

10/18/2025

MEMORANDUM

To: Finance and Personnel Committee Members

From: Nathaniel Haack

Subject: Vehicle Registration Fees

In the state of Wisconsin, municipalities and counties are allowed to assess a Vehicle Registration Fee (colloquially known as a “wheel tax”). All revenues from the Vehicle Registration Fee must be used to fund transportation needs. The City adopted a \$20 municipal vehicle registration tax starting in 2009. This was increased to \$30 in 2021. As of January 2025, [42 municipalities across the state will charge residents this fee.](#) Municipal Vehicle Registration Fees range from \$10 to \$40.

In response to questions about what revenue could be generated by increasing this fee, the Comptroller estimates 295,000 vehicles registered in the City in 2025, meaning that each \$1 increase in the fee would correlate to a \$295,000 increase in anticipated revenues.

Year	City Vehicle Registration Fee	County Vehicle Registration Fee	State Vehicle Registration Fee	Total
2007	\$0	\$0	\$55	\$55
2008	\$0	\$0	\$75	\$75
2009	\$20	\$0	\$75	\$95
2010	\$20	\$0	\$75	\$95
2011	\$20	\$0	\$75	\$95
2012	\$20	\$0	\$75	\$95
2013	\$20	\$0	\$75	\$95
2014	\$20	\$0	\$75	\$95
2015	\$20	\$0	\$75	\$95
2016	\$20	\$0	\$75	\$95
2017	\$20	\$30	\$75	\$125
2018	\$20	\$30	\$75	\$125
2019	\$20	\$30	\$85	\$135
2020	\$20	\$30	\$85	\$135
2021	\$30	\$30	\$85	\$145
2022	\$30	\$30	\$85	\$145
2023	\$30	\$30	\$85	\$145
2024	\$30	\$30	\$85	\$145
2025 Proposed	\$30	\$30	\$85	\$145

NH

Budget/2025budget/F&P questions/Vehicle Registration Fees

