



CITY OF WAUKESHA

Administration

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Committee: Finance Committee	Date: 3/10/2015
Common Council Item Number: 15-2128	Date: 3/17/2015
Submitted By: Kevin Lahner, City Administrator	City Administrator Approval: Kevin Lahner, City Administrator KML
Finance Department Review: Rich Abbott, Finance Director RA	City Attorney's Office Review: Brian Running, City Attorney BER
Subject: Consideration of a recommendation to the Municipal Judge to approve revisions to the City's bond schedule.	

Details:
 This item in is reference to the referral from Alderman Joe Pieper and Alderwoman Joan Francoeur at the February 19, 2015 Common Council meeting. In October, 2013 the Police Department conducted a study of the City's Municipal Bond schedule. The study (enclosed) recommended a 20 percent increase in our current Municipal Bail Bond schedule for the first offense and a 50 percent increase for second offenses committed within a year. It also indicated that on average the City of Waukesha Bail Bond schedule is 36 percent lower than comparison communities.

The study was the basis for several recommendations from the City Administrator's office in 2014 that proposed increasing the bond schedule by various amounts (enclosed). The City Administrator's recommendations were forwarded to the City Attorney's office for review and consideration. After reviewing the recommendations for compliance with our local codes and state statutes, the City Attorney's office has provided a list of recommended increases to our bond schedule as indicated in the enclosed exhibit.

The reviews provide ample documentation that our Bond Schedule is below that of our neighboring communities. The City Administrator, City Attorney and Police Chief all recommend that the bond schedule be revised to increase fines and forfeitures in order to increase our cost recovery for prosecutions and to reduce the amounts of recidivism.

If approved by the Common Council, the bond schedule would have to be approved by the Municipal Court Judge, per our local code and state statues.

Options & Alternatives:
 There are several alternatives related to this item. As indicated in the attached memo from the Police Department, departments throughout the state use different methodology in collecting fines for first and subsequent offenses. The recommendations provided are within the statutory guidelines set by the state, and would put us on par with neighboring communities. The Common Council could choose to adopt the proposed bond schedule as presented. Alternately, different avenues could be explored, including the use of a sliding scale to establish fines.



Financial Remarks:

Increasing the bond schedule as presented would increase revenue to the City and offset costs associated with municipal prosecutions. It is difficult to predict total increase in revenue, but some proposed fine amounts would decrease to maintain compliance with state mandated limits. As proposed, several fines would increase from 10 – 30 percent, depending upon the nature of the offense. The net income to the City from Municipal Court Fines and Forfeitures in 2014 was \$228,769. A 20 percent increase in this amount would result in \$274,000 in revenue or an increase of \$45,231. Please note that this is for comparison purposes only, as the total amount of fines collected varies from year to year.

Executive Recommendation:

Forward to the Municipal Judge a recommendation from the Common Council for approval of the proposed bond schedule as presented amending Chapters 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 27, 30 and 31 to the local government code.

Committee Recommendation:

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