



FRANK WHITE, JR.
Jackson County Executive

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MAY 16 2025

**MARY JO SPINO
COUNTY CLERK**

Recd 4:05 p.m.

May 16, 2025

SIGNING STATEMENT FROM THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE
Ordinance 5978

To the Jackson County Legislature:

Today, I am signing Ordinance 5978 into law, establishing a registration process for tow and wrecker services operating in Jackson County. I want to commend the County Legislature for their willingness to address this important issue and for the thoughtful discussion and deliberations that accompanied its passage.

At the same time, I am issuing this signing statement to highlight concerns we understand were raised during the legislative process, particularly regarding the proposed fee structure, which appears to be significantly higher than similar requirements in other Missouri jurisdictions. I share the concern that such fees, if left unadjusted, could have an unintended chilling effect on Jackson County's small businesses and the residents who rely on these critical services.

Fortunately, the ordinance as adopted does not take effect until January 1, 2026. This provides the County Legislature ample time to revisit the fee structure and address these concerns to ensure the law works as intended—protecting consumers, promoting fair competition, and supporting the businesses that serve our community.

Sincerely,



Frank White, Jr.
Jackson County Executive



Floor Substitute
May 5, 2025

IN THE COUNTY LEGISLATURE OF JACKSON COUNTY, MISSOURI

AN ORDINANCE enacting sections 5293., 5294., 5295., 5296., and 5297., of Jackson County Code, 1984, related to the subject of wreckers and tow services.

ORDINANCE NO. 5978, April 21, 2025

INTRODUCED BY DaRon McGee and Venessa Huskey, County Legislators

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the Jackson County Legislature to ensure the safe regulation and operation of wreckers and tow services operating in the Jackson County area; and,

WHEREAS, the Legislature desires to create five new sections in Chapter 52 regarding wreckers and tow services; now therefore,

BE IT ORDAINED by the County Legislature of Jackson County, Missouri, as follows:

Section A. Enacting Clause. Sections 5293., 5294., 5295., 5296., 5297., and 5298., Jackson County Code, 1984, are hereby enacted, to read as follows:

WRECKERS AND TOW SERVICES

5293. License and Fees Required.

5293.1. It shall be unlawful for any firm, person or corporation to operate a wrecker or tow service business within Jackson County, Missouri, without first having a valid license to tow from Jackson County and a valid paid personal property tax receipt from the county collector of Jackson County. Operating a wrecker or tow service business shall be defined as having such a business physically located in

the county or conducting more than 50 percent of its wrecker or tow service business activities within the county.

5293.2. Effective January 1, 2026, the fee for the license shall be set at \$500.00 per year, per business, location and \$100.00 per vehicle, per business location, per year, and said license shall be issued on or before January 1 of each year and expire on December 31, of that year. There will be no prorating for this fee. Fees shall be paid annually to the Jackson County Clerk's Office and all revenue shall be given to or benefit the Housing Resources Commission.

5294. Registry and requirements of U.S. department of transportation.

5294.1 All wreckers or tow trucks with gross vehicle weight over 26,000 pounds shall be registered with the U.S. Department of Transportation and meet all requirements of the U.S. Department of Transportation.

5295. Liability.

5295.1 All wreckers or tow trucks operated within Jackson County, Missouri, shall be insured with liability insurance that meets the Missouri Department of Transportation's minimum standards

a. All persons or businesses applying for a tow truck license must present a valid certificate of insurance showing at least the minimum liability limits. This must be done at the time of application.

5296. Garage Keepers Liability.

5296.1 Any wrecker or tow service business licensed within Jackson County, Missouri, shall maintain garage keepers liability insurance with minimum limits that meet Missouri Department of Transportation minimum standards, which would cover any vehicle in tow or while in storage at operator's place of business.

5297. Suspension and Revocation.

Any wrecker or tow service business shall have their license revoked for a period of up to 2 years whenever it is shown that the business, or their agent or employee has conducted tow operations without a license or with a suspended license.

5297.1 Reserved.

Effective Date: This ordinance shall be effective January 1, 2026 upon its signature by the County Executive.

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Bryan Covinsky

Bryan Covinsky (May 5, 2025 10:10 CDT)

County Counselor

I hereby certify that the attached ordinance, Ordinance No. 5978 introduced on April 21, 2025, was duly passed on May 5, 2025 by the Jackson County Legislature. The votes thereon were as follows:

Yeas 9

Nays 0

Abstaining 0

Absent 0

This Ordinance is hereby transmitted to the County Executive for his signature.

5-5-2025

Date

Mary Jo Spino

Mary Jo Spino, Clerk of Legislature

I hereby approve the attached Ordinance No. 5978.

5/16/25

Date

Frank White, Jr.

Frank White, Jr., County Executive