

ORDINANCE NO. 21-_____

AN ORDINANCE PERTAINING TO COLLECTION SERVICES FOR UNPAID UTILITY BILLS, CREATING SECTION 22-1-1-105, ARTICLE 22-1, CHAPTER 22, LAWTON CITY CODE, 2015, AUTHORIZING THE CITY TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH A COLLECTION AGENCY FOR THE PROVISION OF COLLECTION SERVICES FOR UNPAID UTILITY BILLS IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED THIRTY-FIVE PERCENT (35%), PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY AND ESTABLISHING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the City of Lawton, Oklahoma that:

Section 1. Section 22-1-1-105 is hereby created to read as follows:

Section 22-1-1-105 - Collection services for unpaid utility bills.

- A. Subject to the provisions of the City of Lawton Charter and Ordinances and Title 11 Oklahoma Statutes Section 22-138, the City Council shall be authorized to enter into a contract with a collection agency for the provision of collection services for debts and accounts receivable, which includes unpaid utility bills.
- B. Upon the City entering into a contract with a collection agency as authorized in Subsection A of this Section, the Utility Services Supervisor or the appropriate finance official of the City may refer indebtedness for unpaid utility bills to the collection agency for collection. The indebtedness for unpaid utility bills may include any unpaid fees, penalties, interest or sums established by City Code and due to the City for unpaid utility bills.
- C. In addition to the total amount of the indebtedness owed to the City, the utility customer/consumer will be responsible for repayment of any contracted collection fee established from the City's contract with the collection agency in an amount not to exceed thirty-five percent (35%) of the total indebtedness that has been referred by the City to the collection agency for collection.

Section 2. Severability. If any section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase, or portion of this ordinance is for any reason held invalid or unconstitutional by any court of competent jurisdiction, said portion shall be deemed a separate, distinct and independent provision and such holding shall not affect the validity of the remaining portion of this ordinance.

Section 3. Effective Date. The provisions of this ordinance shall become effective 30 days after adoption.

ADOPTED and **APPROVED** by the Council of the City of Lawton, Oklahoma, this _____ day of September, 2021.

STANLEY BOOKER , MAYOR

ATTEST:

TRACI L. HUSHBECK, CITY CLERK

APPROVED as to form and legality this _____ day of September, 2021.

JOHN RATLIFF, CITY ATTORNEY