

City of Carlisle, Arkansas
ORDINANCE NO 347

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF CARLISLE TO ESTABLISH AND COLLECT FEES FOR FIRE DEPARTMENT RESPONSES TO FIRES AND EMERGENCIES OUTSIDE THE CITY LIMITS; DECLARING AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

WHEREAS, the City of Carlisle, Arkansas, operates a municipal fire department that responds to fires and other emergencies both within and outside the city limits; and

WHEREAS Arkansas Code § 14-20-108 allows for volunteer fire departments to collect payment for services provided in unincorporated areas; and

WHEREAS, the provision of fire protection services outside the corporate limits of the City of Carlisle results in the expenditure of city resources, personnel time, and equipment; and

WHEREAS the City Council finds it necessary and proper to authorize the assessment of fees for fire responses outside the city limits to recover the costs of providing such services and to protect the financial stability of the City's Fire Department;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CARLISLE, ARKANSAS:

Section 1. Authority to Charge Fees

The Carlisle Fire Department is hereby authorized to assess and collect fees for responses to fires, vehicle accidents, hazardous materials incidents, rescues, or other emergency situations that occur outside the corporate limits of the City of Carlisle.

Section 2. Fee Schedule

(a) The fees charged shall be established by Resolution of the Carlisle City Council, based on the actual or estimated costs of personnel, equipment, and materials used in such responses.

(b) Fees may include, but are not limited to:

- Structure Fires
 - \$500
- Vehicle/ Farm Equipment Fires
 - \$500
- Rescue Operations
 - \$500
- Brush Fires
 - \$250

Section 3. Billing and Collection

(a) The Fire Chief or City Treasurer shall prepare and submit an itemized bill to the property owner, responsible party, or their insurance provider for all applicable charges. A file copy should be maintained in the treasurer's office.

(b) Bills not paid within sixty (60) days of issuance may be subject to additional administrative fees and collection procedures as permitted by law.

Section 4. Mutual Aid and Exemptions

(a) This ordinance shall not apply to responses made under mutual aid agreements with other fire departments or governmental entities where no fee is authorized or agreed upon.

(b) The Fire Chief, with the approval of the Mayor, may waive or reduce fees in cases of hardship, mutual benefit, or other circumstances in the public interest.

Section 5. Deposit of Funds

All fees collected under this ordinance shall be deposited into the Fire Department Funds of the City of Carlisle General Funds account.

Section 6. Emergency Clause

It is hereby found and determined that the prompt recovery of costs associated with out-of-town fire responses is essential to maintaining the financial integrity of the Carlisle Fire Department; therefore, an emergency is declared to exist, and this ordinance shall be in full force and effect immediately upon its passage and approval.

PASSED AND APPROVED this ____ day of _____, 2025.

CITY OF CARLISLE, ARKANSAS

Jon Plafcan, Mayor

ATTEST:

Sissy Ingle, City Clerk/Treasurer