



CITY OF MANITOWOC

WISCONSIN, USA

www.manitowoc.org

March 26, 2026

TO: Members of the Finance Committee
FROM: Eric Nycz, City Attorney
Re: Request to Increase Court Costs Fee

Municipal Court Judge Steve Olson contacted my office requesting the Common Council increase Court Costs for ordinance violations to \$48.00, the new maximum allowable pursuant to Wis. Stat. 814.65(1), which became effective March 22, 2026.

Court costs help to offset the cost of operating a Municipal Court. Judge Olson and I are keenly aware that these costs fall short in funding the Court, so any allowable increase is strongly recommended to be adopted, as it will (minimally) ease the burden on property tax payers and shift part of the burden of its cost to violators of the Manitowoc Municipal Code.

Further, we request that the Committee adopt the attached Resolution and Municipal Court Bond Schedule which would mirror other municipalities that allow the Municipal Judge to determine the amount of Court costs recovered (the Judge would, at all times, have to stay within the limits of state statutes, whatever they may be at any given time).

Thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions regarding this request, please reach out to me at your leisure.

CITY ATTORNEY ERIC NYCZ

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