

**ORDINANCE NO. 2019-20**

**TOWNSHIP OF BLAIRSTOWN  
COUNTY OF WARREN  
STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 177 “TOWING”, SECTION 177-10  
“TOWING, STORAGE, AND MILEAGE CHARGES” OF THE CODE OF THE  
TOWNSHIP OF BLAIRSTOWN**

**WHEREAS**, the Township Code contains a section regarding charges associated with the towing and storage of vehicles; and

**WHEREAS**, the Chief of Police has been advised the that current fee structure does not cover several different charges that are necessarily assessed when a vehicle is towed; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township Committee has reviewed the current Code and the information provided to the Chief and determined that it is necessary to amend the Code section to adjust the charges; and

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED**, by the Township Committee of the Township of Blairstown, Warren County, New Jersey, that Section 177-10 entitled “Towing, Storage, and Mileage Charges” of the Code of the Township of Blairstown be an is hereby amended as follows:

**SECTION 1.** Chapter 177 “Towing”, Section 177-10 “Towing, Storage, and Mileage Charges” shall be amended to read as follows:

**§177-10 Towing, storage, and mileage charges.**

A. The fees set forth in the schedule below for towing and storage rates are the maximum permitted charges that shall apply to the towing and/or storage of passenger automobiles. Towing operators transporting multiple passenger vehicles at one time shall receive the applicable fees for each passenger vehicle transported.

(1) The following towing and storage fees shall apply for passenger vehicles and other vehicles as indicated.

**Towing Fees:**

Hookup	\$150.
Tow mileage	\$6.00 per mile
Rollback extraction	\$125.00 to scene \$125.00 per hour on scene
Off road wrecker extraction	\$225.00 to scene \$175.00 per hour
Yard fee	\$55.00

**Storage fees (per day for vehicles not claimed within 24 hours of initial tow):**

Outside	\$50.00 per day
Inside	\$75.00 per day

**Other charges:**

Labor on Scene	\$125.00 per hour
Administration fee	\$55.00

**Road service:**

Flat with spare	\$100.00
Lock out	\$100.00
Fuel delivery (includes 5 gallons of gasoline only)	\$100.00
Jump start	\$100.00

(2) In the event that the towing operator has been summoned by the Township for the purpose of towing an abandoned vehicle and has arrived on the scene; and if the owner or the operator appears on the scene before the vehicle is hooked to a tow truck, then the towing operator will collect a road service fee of \$\_\_\_\_\_. It is the responsibility of the towing operator to secure the billing information and collect the road service fee.

(3) Vehicles that are towed under this chapter and that subsequently become the target of a police investigation (criminal, fatal accident, etc.), and become the responsibility of the Township to pay the tow charge shall be charged at the current rate for towing of Township-owned vehicles.

(4) Storage fees shall commence once the towed vehicle has been brought to the storage facility and 24 hours have elapsed. Storage charges continue for every calendar day following. The fees set forth for storage are the maximum storage charges per 24-hour period and same shall apply to a vehicle that is stored as a result of accidents, abandonments, repairs, or suspected criminal activity.

(5) Road repair services. The towing operator shall be permitted to charge an additional fee based on the towing operator's prevailing hourly labor rates and charges for parts or materials for any road repair services provided in addition to those defined herein. It shall be the responsibility of the tow operator to first inform the owner/operator of the vehicle of the hourly labor rates and the estimated total cost for parts and/or materials, and receive written consent from the owner/operator, prior to the performance of such additional road repair services.

(6) Wherever applicable, it shall be the responsibility of the towing operator to first inform the owner or operator of the estimated total cost prior to the performance of any towing service.

(7) Release of impounded vehicles. No impounded vehicle is to be released without proper authorization from the Blairstown Township Police Department. Vehicle release must be available during normal business hours.

B. The above towing charges shall not apply when the operator of the vehicle elects either a specific tower or to be towed to a destination other than the licensed storage facility. In such cases, the towing charges shall be mutually agreed upon between the operator of the vehicle and the licensed towing operator. In the event an operator requests his/her own tow, it will be determined by the duty officer if another towing service will create a danger to life or property, at which time the duty tow will remove the vehicle.

C. This towing and storage fee schedule shall be subject to change on an annual basis commencing January 1 of each year, or upon review and determination of necessity. The towing and storage fee schedule shall be maintained by each licensed tow truck operator for the Township, the Township Director of Police and the Municipal Clerk.

All other portions of this Chapter remain unchanged.

**SECTION 2.** All ordinances or parts of ordinances of the Township of Blirstown inconsistent herewith are repealed to the extent of such inconsistency.

**SECTION 3.** If any section, subsection, clause or phrase of this Ordinance is for any reason held to be unconstitutional or invalid by any court or competent jurisdiction, such decision shall not affect the remaining portion of this Ordinance.

**SECTION 4.** This law shall take effect immediately upon final passage, approval and publication as required by law.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that Ordinance 2019-20, an ordinance to amend chapter 177 "TOWING", section 177-10 "TOWING, STORAGE, AND MILEAGE CHARGES" of the code of the Township of Blirstown, was introduced at a public meeting of the Township Committee, in the County of Warren and State of New Jersey, held on August 14, 2019 and with a public hearing being scheduled for Wed., September 11, 2019 at 7:30PM at the Twp. Municipal Building, 106 Route 94, Blirstown, NJ 07825. The ordinance revises the fees for towing, storage and mileage the Township charges. A copy of the ordinance is available for public inspection on the Twp. Bulletin Board, the Twp. website and a copy can be requested, free of charge, in the Clerk's department.

Everett Falt, Township Clerk