

**ORDINANCE 2026 –**

**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CITY OF MT. JULIET CODE OF ORDINANCES,  
CHAPTER 2, ARTICLE VI TO ESTABLISH REASONABLE COURT COSTS,  
LITIGATION TAXES, AND AN E-CITATION FEE**

**WHEREAS**, Tennessee Code Annotated § 16-18-304 allows cities to set and collect reasonable municipal court costs; and

**WHEREAS**, the 114<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the State of Tennessee passed Public Chapter 459 amending Tennessee Code Annotated §16-18-304(a) to increase the municipal training education fee from \$1.00 to \$2.00 that took effect on July 1, 2025; and

**WHEREAS**, Tennessee Code Annotated § 67-4-601 allows cities to levy and collect local litigation taxes; and

**WHEREAS**, the local litigation tax is in addition to the State litigation taxes as defined in Tennessee Code Annotated § 67-4-601 and any other taxes and/or fees imposed pursuant to state statutes and/or City ordinances; and

**WHEREAS**, Tennessee Code Annotated § 55-10-207 was amended by Public Chapter 750 (2014), authorizing electronic citations to be filed in court, along with a fee to recover costs associated with both written and electronic citations; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Commissioners has determined that it is in the best interest of the City to amend Chapter 2, Article VI regarding court costs and set an adjusted court cost amount, litigation taxes, and an e-citation fee; and

**WHEREAS**, Chapter 2, Articles VI of the Code of Ordinances is desired to be amended as follows:

<b>Chapter</b>	<b>Article</b>	<b>Section</b>	<b>Section Title</b>	<b>Action</b>
2	VI	2-154	Fines, penalties, and costs	Amended

; and

**WHEREAS**, the specific amendments desired to be made to Chapter 2, Article VI of the Code of Ordinances are shown in redline form in the attached Exhibit A.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED** by the Board of Commissioners of the City of Mt. Juliet, Tennessee as follows:

**Section 1.** The Code of Ordinances, Chapter 2, Article VI, Section 2-154, “Fines, penalties, and costs,” is hereby amended to read in its entirety as follows:

- (a) All fines and costs shall be imposed by the City judge and recorded by the municipal court clerk on the municipal court docket.

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- (b) *Court costs.* In all cases heard and determined by him or her, the City judge shall impose court costs in the amount of one hundred forty-five dollars (\$145.00), unless otherwise set by state law.

Two dollars (\$2.00) of the court costs shall be forwarded by the court clerk to the state treasurer in accordance with Tennessee Code Annotated § 16-18-304(a) to be used by the Administrative Office of the Courts for training and continuing education courses for municipal court judges and municipal court clerks.

- (c) *Dismissal.* When any person has been charged with violation of a law regarding vehicle equipment (including but not limited to inoperable headlights, tail lights, brake lights or turn signals), driver licensing, or vehicle licensing and registration, the charge may be dismissed if the person charged with the violation submits evidence of compliance with such law on or before the court date; provided, however, that the city judge may establish a separate court cost not to exceed thirty dollars (\$30.00) to be collected from the person charged with the violation. This separate court costs will be assessed in lieu of the court costs detailed in the section above.

Two dollars (\$2.00) of the court costs shall be forwarded by the court clerk to the state treasurer in accordance with Tennessee Code Annotated § 16-18-304(a) to be used by the Administrative Office of the Courts for training and continuing education courses for municipal court judges and municipal court clerks.

- (d) *Litigation taxes.* In all cases where the defendant is charged with the violation of a City ordinance or authorized state statute and is found guilty, whether by trial or plea of guilty, such defendant shall pay:

- (1) The State litigation taxes as defined in Tennessee Code Annotated § 67-4-601.
- (2) In addition, pursuant to the authority granted in Tennessee Code Annotated § 67-4-601, the City of Mt. Juliet adopts a local litigation tax of \$13.75 and the court shall levy this local litigation tax in all cases in which the state litigation tax is levied.
- (3) Any other taxes and/or fees imposed pursuant to state statutes and/or town ordinances.

- (e) *Electronic citation regulations and fees.*

- (1) As used in this section, "electronic citation" means a written citation or an electronic citation prepared by a law enforcement officer on paper or on an electronic data device with the intent the citation shall be filed, electronically or otherwise, with a court having jurisdiction over the alleged offense.

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- (2) Pursuant to and in accordance with state statutory requirements found in Tennessee Code § 55-10-207(e), each court clerk shall charge and collect an electronic citation fee of five dollars (\$5.00) for each citation which results in a conviction.
- (3) *Sunset provision.* This section and its fee requirement shall terminate five (5) years from the date of adoption of this Ordinance.

**BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED**

In case of conflict between this ordinance or any part hereof, and the whole part of any existing ordinance of the City, the conflicting ordinance is repealed to the extent of the conflict but no further.

If any section, clause, or provision or portion of this ordinance is held to be invalid or unconstitutional by any court of competent jurisdiction, such holding shall not affect any other section, clause, or provision or portion of this ordinance.

This ordinance shall take effect on April \_\_\_\_, 2026 to allow time for the City to update programs/software, citations, etc.

PASSED:

FIRST READING: March 9, 2026

SECOND READING:

\_\_\_\_\_  
James Maness, Mayor

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Kenny Martin, City Manager

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jennifer Hamblen, CMC, City Recorder

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Samantha A. Burnett, City Attorney