

## **ORDINANCE NO. 2025-013**

### **AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORDINANCE 2023-005 TO ESTABLISH REASONABLE COURT COSTS.**

WHEREAS, Tennessee Code Annotated § 16-18-304 allows towns 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 takes effect on July 1, 2025; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Coopertown wishes to amend its court cost to reflect this legislative change; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Coopertown has determined that it is in the best interest of the Town to amend Ordinance 2023-005 regarding court costs and set a revised court cost amount;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN OF THE TOWN OF COOPERTOWN, TENNESSEE, THAT:**

**Section 1.** Ordinance 2023-005 of the Coopertown Municipal Code is amended by deleting the current language in its entirety and substituting instead the following:

#### **Imposition of Fines, Penalties, and Costs.**

- 1) All fines and costs shall be imposed by the town judge and recorded by the municipal court clerk on the municipal court docket.
- 2) Court Costs – In all cases heard and determined by him or her, the town judge shall impose court costs in the amount of \$140.50. Two dollars (\$2.00) of the court costs shall be forwarded by the court clerk to the state treasurer in accordance to 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.
- 3) 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 town judge may establish a separate court cost not to exceed \$30.00 to be

collected from the person charged with the violation. This separate court cost will be assessed in lieu of the court costs detailed in Section 1(2) above.

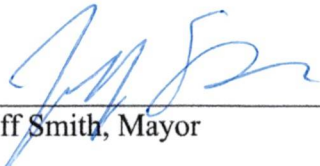
Two dollars (\$2.00) of the court costs shall be forwarded by the court clerk to the state treasurer in accordance with Tennessee Code Annotated § 16-18-304(a) to be used by the Administrative Office of the Courts for training and continuing education courses for municipal court judges and municipal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

- 4) Litigation Taxes - In all cases where the defendant is charged with the violation of a town ordinance or authorized state statute and is found guilty, whether by trial or plea of guilty, such defendant shall pay:
- a) The State litigation taxes as defined in Tennessee Code Annotated § 67-4-601.
  - b) In addition, pursuant to the authority granted in Tennessee Code Annotated § 67-4-601, the Town of Coopertown 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.
  - c) Any other taxes and/or fees imposed pursuant to state statutes and/or town ordinances.

**Section 2. Date of effect.** This ordinance shall take effect from and after its final passage, the public welfare requiring it.

Passed 1st reading, June 24, 2025.

Passed 2nd reading, July 22, 2025.

  
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Jeff Smith, Mayor

Attest:

  
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Emily McKellar, Recorder