



City of Grand Forks
Staff Report
Committee of the Whole – January 12, 2026
City Council – January 20, 2026 and February 2, 2026



Agenda Item: Amend City Code Chapter XI, Article 1, Cats, Dogs and Ferrets §§11-0112 and 11-0117, relating to removal of impound fee amount and code language cleanup

Submitted by: Dan Gaustad, City Attorney
Maureen Storstad, Finance Director
Sherie Lundmark, City Clerk

Staff Recommended Action: Review and approve proposed ordinance amending city code

Committee Recommended Action: Motion by Osowski, second by Berg to refer to City Council with recommendation to approve the request. Motion passed unanimously.

Council Action 01/20/26: Motion by Berg, second by Lunski to approve on consent agenda. Motion passed unanimously.

Council Action 02/02/26:

BACKGROUND:

City of Grand Forks City Code contains regulations for Animals residing within the City including the impounding of cats and dogs. Some years ago, an ordinance was adopted removing the amount of various fees from City Code and stipulating that fees would be reviewed annually and adopted by resolution of City Council as part of the budget process. The sections of City Code listing the animal impound fee imposed for dogs and cats was missed in that ordinance. This ordinance will remove the specific fee and insert the language for setting of the fee. In review of these sections, it was also noted that some language correction was needed to update and clarify impound process.

ANALYSIS AND FINDINGS OF FACT:

- City Code includes regulations for animals in Grand Forks.
- The exact amount of fees for various license, permits and other charges was removed from City Code several years ago, and replaced with a change to set the amount of fees to be charged by resolution of the City Council through the budget process.
- The impound fee was missed from being included in the previous ordinance. A cleanup ordinance is coming forward to correct the code for the fee to be set by resolution. The ordinance also includes some language cleanup to correct missing words, reflect changes in operations and provide clarity.
- City Council approval is required for adoption of the amending ordinance.

SUPPORT MATERIALS:

- Draft Ordinance

ORDINANCE NO. _____

An ordinance to amend sections of Grand Forks City Code Chapter XI, Animals and Fowl, Article 1, Cats, Dogs and Ferrets, §§ 11-0112 and 11-0117, relating to removal of impound fee amount and code cleanup.

BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council of the City of Grand Forks, North Dakota, pursuant to its home rule charter, Grand Forks City Code and N.D.C.C. ch. 40-11 that:

Section 1: Amending Clause to Amend Grand Forks City Code § 11-0112.

Grand Forks City Code § 11-0112 is amended to read as follows (the amending language in bold, with deletions stricken through and additions underlined):

11-0112. – Cat or Dog at large; nuisance, impoundment, destruction.

* * *

(2) Information as to the records of all dogs and cats impounded will be available to the public at all times upon request to the police or finance department. The owner of any impounded dog **or cat**, if known, shall be notified by the police department **or a designee** by personal, telephone, or written notice, as soon as reasonably possible. If within four (4) days of impounding, the owner shall claim the dog or cat, said owner shall pay to the city at its finance department ~~the sum of thirty five dollars (\$35.00)~~ the amount **set by resolution of City Council** for the taking or impounding of said cat or dog. Said dog or cat shall then be released to the owner; provided, however, that ~~no the~~ dog or cat shall be released from the pound ~~unless is~~ properly licensed **pursuant to Grand Forks City Code § 11-0102. If such dog or cat is required to be licensed under Grand Forks City Code § 11-0102 but is not then currently licensed, the dog or cat license must be licensed within 10 days and the failure to obtain such license within this 10 day period shall constitute a violation of Grand Forks City Code § 11-0102.**

* * *

11-0117. -Same – Duties of police officers and disposition of dog

Upon a verbal or written complaint by any person, it shall be the duty of each police officer, in addition to the penalties upon the owner herein before provided, to take up any dog, whether licensed or otherwise, which shall do any or all of the things prohibited by section [11-0116](#), and place the same in the ~~dog~~ **animal impound** or other suitable place. Dogs so taken shall be held for a period of four (4) days and the owner shall be immediately notified of the taking and cause therefor. The owner may redeem the same by payment of the fee of ~~thirty five dollars (\$35.00)~~ **in the amount set by resolution of City Council** for the taking or impounding of a dog and the applicable amount for the care and keep of said dog as specified in the prevailing agreement and contract for care between the City of Grand Forks and Grand Forks Humane Society.

* * *

Section 2: Effectivity.

This ordinance shall be in full force and effect after publication thereof, as provided by law.

Brandon Bochenski, Mayor
Dated: _____

ATTEST:

Maureen Storstad, City Auditor
Dated: _____
Introduction and first reading: _____
Public Hearing: _____
Second reading and final passage and approval: _____
Approved: _____
Published: _____