

CHAPTER 76

VEHICLE IMPOUNDMENT AND ABANDONMENT ORDINANCE

76.01 Release of Impounded Vehicle; Sale of Vehicle.

- (A) Release of Vehicle. Whenever the Sheriff determines that any motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer or mobile home (collectively hereinafter "vehicle") which had been impounded by the County for purposes of evidence or other law enforcement purpose can be reclaimed or is abandoned pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 342.40(1m), the owner and any lienholder of record shall be given written notice by certified mail containing the following information:
- (1) The make, model and serial number of the vehicle, and the place where the vehicle is being held.
 - (2) The amount of the towing charge, if any, and that it must be paid before the vehicle is released.
 - (3) The vehicle must be reclaimed within ten (10) days of receipt of notice.
 - (4) Failure of the owner or lienholders to reclaim the vehicle within ten (10) days shall be deemed a waiver of all right, title and interest in the vehicle and a consent to the sale of the vehicle and the vehicle shall be deemed abandoned.
 - (5) The vehicle may be disposed of by sealed bid or auction sale. Notice of sale shall be given as a Class 1 notice in the official County newspaper and posted in the Government Center. If deemed inadequate by the Sheriff or his/her designee, all bids may be rejected. If all bids are rejected or no bids are received, the County may either readvertise the sale, adjourn the sale to a definite date, sell the vehicle at a private sale, junk the vehicle, or donate to a nonprofit organization. If the Sheriff or his/her designee determines that the costs of disposing of the vehicle would exceed the value of the vehicle, the vehicle can be junked, sold without notice, or donated to a nonprofit organization.
- (B) Sale of Vehicle.
- (1) Upon sale of the vehicle, the County shall supply the purchaser with a completed form designed by the Wisconsin Department of Transportation enabling the purchaser to obtain a regular certificate of title for the vehicle.
 - (2) The purchaser shall have ten (10) days to remove the vehicle, but shall pay a \$10 per day storage fee after the 2nd business day subsequent to the sale.
 - (3) If the purchaser fails to remove the vehicle ten days after the sale, the purchaser shall forfeit all interest in the vehicle and the vehicle shall be deemed abandoned and may be sold again or donated to a nonprofit organization.
- (C) Notice to State. Within five (5) days after the sale or disposal of vehicle, the County shall advise the Wisconsin Department of Transportation of the sale or disposition on a form

supplied by the department.

76.02 Enforcement.

The costs of disposal not recovered by sale of the vehicle may be recovered in a civil action by the County against the owner.

76.03. Amendments.

Any future amendments, revisions, or modifications of Wis. Stat. § 342.40 or any other statutes referred to in this ordinance are intended to be made part of this ordinance as such amendments, revisions, or modifications are made to said statutes.

76.04 Effective Date.

This ordinance shall be effective upon adoption by the Board of Supervisors.

Ordinance No. 345 (94) - March, 1994

Ordinance No. 840 (2016) – February, 2016