

To: Harris County Commissioners Court

Through: Michael Lanham, Director of Finance, Sheriff's Office

Prepared By: Laura Wilson, A/P Analyst, Sheriff's Office

Subject: Livestock Impoundment Fees

Project ID (If applicable):

Purpose and Request:

This is a request for action by the Court. The Court is being asked to approve the attached letter

Background and Discussion: After researching several nearby counties, we came to the conclusion that we are charging considerably less than average for the handling of livestock going astray in Harris County. The Sheriff's Office is requesting approval for increasing our impoundment fees.

Fiscal Impact:

Fiscal Summary			
Expenditures	FY 20-21	FY 21-22 Projected	Future Years Projected [3 additional years]
Service Impacted: <i>[Please provide service or division where expenditure will be used]*</i>			
Existing Budget			
Additional Appropriation Requested			
Total Expenditures			
Funding Sources			
Existing Department Budget			
Please Identify Funding Source (General Fund, PIC, Special Revenue, Grant, Etc.)			
<i>[INSERT FUNDING SOURCE HERE]*</i>			
Total Sources			

Alternatives:

Alignment with Strategic Objective:

Ensure compliance with all County, State, and Federal rules and regulations regarding, acquisitions, and reporting

Attachments:

Letter, Fees schedule

March 11, 2021

The Honorable Judge Lina Hidalgo
and Members of Commissioners Court
Harris County Administration Building
Houston, Texas 77002

Honorable Members of Court:

The Harris County Sheriff's Office is requesting an increase in Livestock Impoundment fees. After researching several nearby counties, we have compared the fees that we are charging and found them to be considerably less than average. Our Livestock Unit utilizes numerous tools such as tranquilizing and corral panels for which we do not currently charge. The increased and added fees will assist in offsetting expenses arising in handling estray livestock in Harris County.

Your favorable consideration of the above request is greatly appreciated.

Respectfully Submitted,



Ed Gonzalez, Sheriff
Harris County

March 2, 2021

To: Ed Gonzalez, Sheriff
Executive Command

Thru: Edison Toquica, Chief Deputy
Executive Command

Mike Lee, Assistant Chief
Law Enforcement Command

Jesse Razo, Major
Patrol Support Services Bureau

Mike Koteras, Captain
Special Operations Division

3-10-21

Gaisile Goudeau, Lieutenant
Special Operations Division

Goudeau 3-3-21

From: Warren Conner, Sergeant
Special Operations Division, Livestock Unit

WC #208

Re: Request to Increase Impoundment Fees

I am respectfully requesting an increase in Livestock Impoundment Fees. I have spoken with Livestock Units for Fort Bend County Sheriff, Montgomery County Sheriff, and Liberty County Sheriff on their current fees. I observe our fees to be less. We utilize numerous tools such as tranquilizing and corral panels which we do not currently charge. We frequently use ROMPUN to tranquilize animals which cost approximately \$60 (15 doses) and the reversal dose cost approximately \$132 (30 doses). On numerous occasions we are not able to contain the animal(s) and it is necessary to tranquilize for the safety of the employee(s) and the public. In addition, it reduces the chance of the target animal being injured which may require veterinarian services (expense). In 2020, we captured 72 cows and 92 horses. We tranquilized approximately 30% of the estray cows. So far in 2021, we have captured 46 cows and 20 horses. Majority of the cows captured this year have been released back to the owner within a week of capture.

Below is a chart of the current fees and proposed fees:

	Current	Proposed
Large Livestock Impound	\$75.00	\$100.00 1 st Animal/\$75.00 2 nd & Subsequent
Small Livestock Impound	50.00	75.00 1 st Animal/\$50.00 2 nd & Subsequent
Large Feed/Care per day	20.00	25.00
Small Feed/Care per day	10.00	15.00
Fowl Impound (peacock/emu/ostrich)	10.00	50.00 1 st Animal/\$25.00 2 nd & Subsequent
Coggins (actual cost by vet)	30.00	30.00
Tranquilizing & Reversal	0.00	15.00 each dart
OK Corral Trailer	0.00	100.00
Delivery Fee	N/A	100.00

*Large Animal- Horses, llama, cow, and bull
 **Small Animal- Pony, foal, calf, goat, and pig
 ***Fowl- Peacock, emu, and ostrich

The increased fees will assist in off-setting expenses arising from handling estray livestock in Harris County. We retain estray animals for 18 days and unclaimed are auctioned off at a Livestock Sale in conjunction with State Law. Last year (2020), the Livestock Unit received \$8,305 in Impound Fees and \$11,152.50 in Auction Sales. As of February 28, 2021, we have received \$2,660 in Impound Fees and \$7,934.48 in Auction Fees.

Thank you in advance for your consideration in reviewing this proposal.

Below is the Fee Schedule for Ft. Bend, Montgomery, and Liberty Counties:

Fee schedule for Fort Bend County Sheriff:

Catch Fee:

Large Animal: \$125.00 per head (Horse, Cattle, Donkey, etc...)

Small Animal: \$75.00 per head (Sheep, Goat, Pig, etc...)

Storage Fee:

Large & Small: \$25.00 per day per head

Panel Fee: \$100.00 we carry panels on our trailers and if we have to make corral to catch the animals we use this fee.

Tranquilizer Fee: \$25.00 per dart (this fee includes dart and downer an reversal meds)

Delivery Fee: \$100.00 per head (if owner is unable meet/pickup impounded stock)

Vet Bill: Current vet rate. If impounded animals need vet care while it is impounded or a Coggins test is done before the owner comes forth. The vet bill for that impounded is added on

Fee schedule for Montgomery County Sheriff:

Impound Fee:

Equine/Bovine	\$150	2 nd and Subsequent	\$75
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Goat/Sheep/Swine	75	2 nd and Subsequent	50
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Emu/Ostrich	100	2 nd and Subsequent	50
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Feed/Care per day

Equine	13
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Bovine	10
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Goat/Sheep/Swine	7
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Emu/Ostrich	7
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Veterinarian Services

Coggins Test	30
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Other services	Actual expense to be paid by the owner
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Tranquilizer

Up to 2 syringes (darts)	15
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Reversal injection (2 doses)	15
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Cowboy Services

Catch and Haul	150	2 nd	75	Subsequent	50
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Fee schedule for Liberty County Sheriff:

Livestock Fees:

Contract Cowboy per call	\$175	Additional Contract Cowboy required per call	\$125
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Processing Fee	25
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Impound fee per day	15
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Stock Panels	100
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Dart gun used	100
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Harris County Sheriff's Office

Livestock Unit



IMPOUNDMENT FEE

Large Livestock

Impoundment Fee	\$75.00
Daily Charges	\$20.00

Small Livestock

Impoundment Fee	\$50.00
Daily Charges	\$10.00

Fowl

Impoundment Fee	\$10.00
Daily Charges	\$ 5.00

**Daily Charges include boarding, feed and hay.*

**Daily charges start at 12am.*