



**STAFF REPORT
HOLLISTER CITY COUNCIL
MEETING DATE: October 20, 2025
REPORT # Police-2025-11**

AGENDA ITEM: ORDINANCE FOR RECOVERY OF EMERGENCY RESPONSE PERSONNEL COSTS RELATED TO DUI INCIDENTS

DEPARTMENT: Police

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Carlos Reynoso, Police Chief

STAFF CONTACT: Carlos Reynoso, Police Chief

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

1. Hold a public hearing and introduce ordinance to amend Title 9 of the Hollister Municipal Code to add Chapter 9.50 for recovery of emergency response personnel costs related to DUI incidents;
2. Direct staff to bring back a resolution determining the hourly fully funded rate for the public safety personnel to be charged under this new ordinance; and
3. Schedule a second reading and adoption for the November 3, 2025, City Council meeting.

DISCUSSION: Despite ongoing public education efforts and the well-documented dangers associated with impaired driving, DUI incidents continue to pose a significant threat to public safety in the City of Hollister. These incidents not only endanger the lives of those driving under the influence but also put innocent community members at serious risk of injury or death.

The Hollister Police and Fire Departments dedicate substantial resources to the apprehension of DUI offenders and the response to DUI-related collisions. These responses are time-intensive and divert critical personnel away from other emergency calls and community safety needs.

Between January 2022 and August 26, 2025, Hollister public safety personnel responded to 77 DUI-related traffic collisions. During the same period, the Police Department made 525 DUI arrests.

Despite widespread public awareness campaigns and enforcement efforts, impaired driving remains a persistent issue.

Under California Government Code Sections 53150 et seq., municipalities are authorized to recover costs associated with emergency responses to DUI incidents. Several cities, including Clovis, California, have implemented ordinances to pursue such cost recovery.

The Government Code permits recovery in cases where a DUI arrest is made and the individual was involved in a traffic collision, evaded law enforcement in violation of Vehicle Code Section 2800.1, drove the wrong way on a one-way street, operated a vehicle on the wrong side of the road, or drove in a reckless manner, among other qualifying circumstances.

While the exact amount of potential cost recovery is currently undetermined, For the year 2024, Hollister P.D. had a total of 28 DUI related traffic accident reports. From when the call is initiated to the time it closes, those cases took an average of 2 hours and 28 minutes. In addition to the average time of investigating, processing the crash scene and booking the offender at the jail, there would be an average of one additional hour it would take for the officer to write the report. Therefore, on average, it takes 3 hours and 28 minutes from when the call is initiated to the time the officer completes the report. The actual fully funded cost of all officers and fire personnel has not been established. However, if that amount is \$150 an hour for one officer and one fire fighter, the cost of an average DUI incident cost recovery may be about \$1,000 per qualifying incident.

The city could recover tens of thousands of dollars annually. Final cost recovery rates would be established in coordination with the Police, Fire, and Finance Departments.

It should be noted; this ordinance is a recovery of the cost that the city departments have already incurred by responding to the incident. These DUI incidents are all preventable by residents not getting behind the wheel, using a ride sharing app, using a designated driver or a taxi.

Besides the City of Clovis, the following California cities also have similar cost recovery ordinances authorized under Government Code Sections 53150 – 53159; Moorpark, Oakley, Lawndale, Stockton, Cypress, Chico, Atascadero and Piedmont.

Staff recommends the City Council hold a public hearing, introduce the ordinance, and schedule a second reading for the November 3, 2025, City Council meeting for the adoption of Chapter 9.50 for recovery of emergency response personnel costs related to DUI incidents and direct staff to determine the hourly fully funded rate for the public safety personnel to be charged under this new ordinance and return with a resolution adding the item to the City's fee schedule.

FISCAL IMPACT: Unknown but possibly up to \$30,000 in revenue per year in cost recovery.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL OR COMMISSION ACTION: Previous first reading of the ordinance presented on October 6, 2025.

CEQA: N/A

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Ordinance