



**CITY OF ALEXANDRIA**  
**Department of Transportation &  
Environmental Services and the  
Office of Performance Analytics**

# **Towing and Storage Fees Ordinance Update**





# Discussion

- ▶ **To share the following two recommendations resulting from the March 26, 2024, Towing Advisory Board Meeting:**

1. To amend the trespass towing fee of \$135 to \$150, and
2. To increase the after-hours charge of \$25 to \$30.



# Trespass Towing Fee



Charge to remove and tow a vehicle from private property, like an apartment complex parking lot, to another location



The City sets the fee as established by the State range of \$135 to \$150



Assessment is to take into consideration the fair market value



This excludes other kinds of towing, like an owner requesting a tow for a broken vehicle





# Current Trespas Fees

The City is **below** the state maximum for two fees and allows/regulates three fees.

	<b>Tow</b>	<b>After Hours</b> <i>(holidays, weekends, 7 p.m. to 8 a.m.; can be charged up to 2x)</i>	<b>Fuel Surcharge</b>	<b>Storage</b> <i>(after 24 hours, daily)</i>	<b>Notify/Admin</b> <i>(after 3 days)</i>	<b>Hooked-Up, Not Towed</b> <i>(drop fee)</i>
<b>City</b>	\$135	\$25	\$20	\$50	\$75	\$50
<b>State Max</b>	\$135-\$150	\$30	\$20	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>Difference</b>	<b>(\$15)</b>	<b>(\$5)</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$50</b>	<b>\$75</b>	<b>\$50</b>



# Advisory Board Fee Actions

## 2015 Last Update

- Maximum fee for vehicles less than 7,500 pounds gross weight changed from \$125 to \$135.

## 2021 and 2024

- Vote to increase fee from \$135 to \$150 per private tow.
- Vote to increase after hours fee from \$25 to \$30 per private tow.
  - **Why:** State Law allows for up to \$150 and to align with Fairfax County.

*Towing Advisory Board recommendations were shared via Memo to CC.*



# Fair Market Value Analysis

- Under State code, City Council is required to take the fair market value (FMV).
- T&ES coordinated with the Office of Performance Analytics to conduct an analysis that included inflation, a comparison of fees in neighboring jurisdictions, market charges, and service demand.
  - ❑ Comparator Rates
  - ❑ Trespass Tow Trends
  - ❑ Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS)
    - **DC Area:** goods, services, food, housing, transportation, medical care, and education.
    - **Transportation:** fuel, maintenance, insurance, transit fares, public and private transportation.

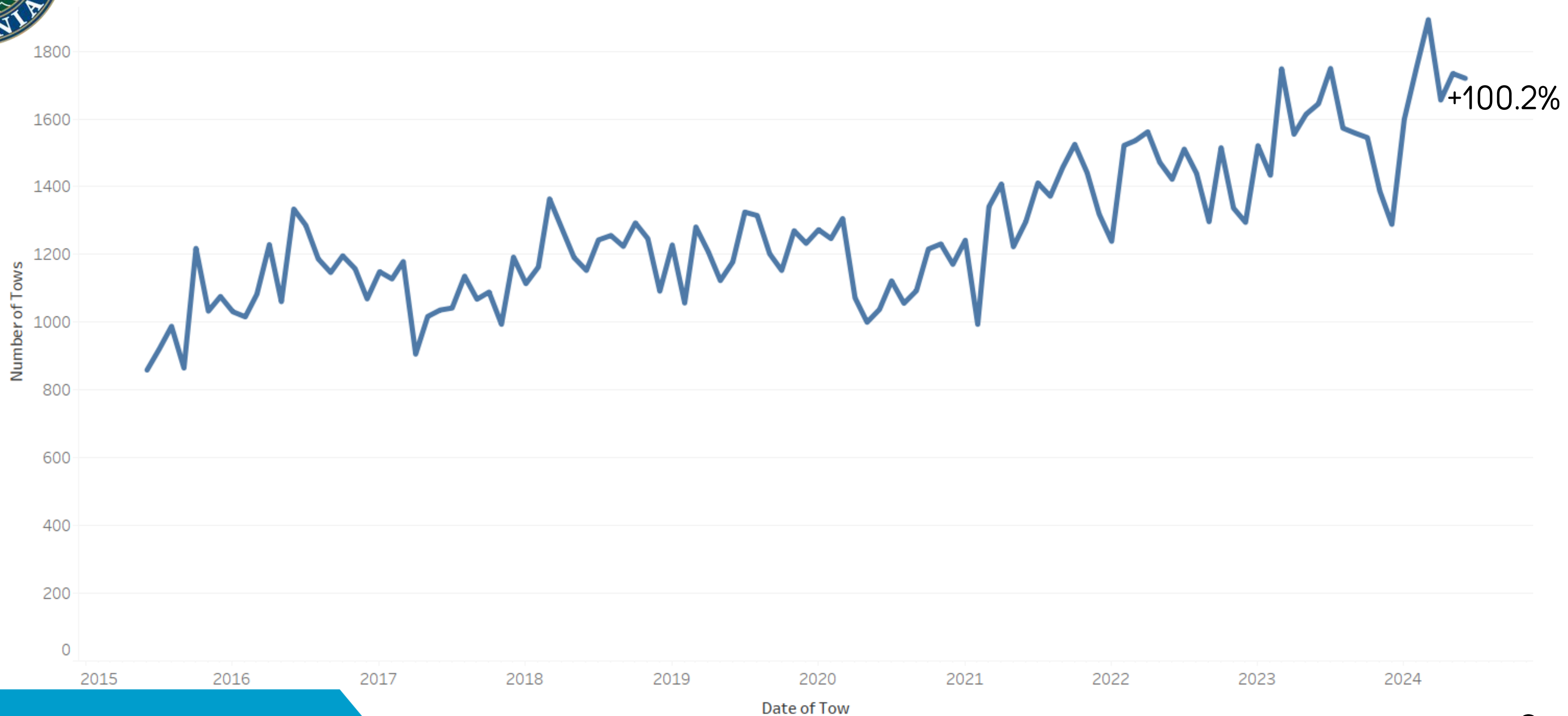


# Comparator Rates

Comparator Agency Towing Rates for Private (Trespass) Tows in Planning District 8			
Jurisdiction	Hookup and Initial Towing Fee (GVWR of 7,500lbs or less) <sup>2</sup>	Towing between 7 p.m. and 8 a.m.	Towing on any Saturday, Sunday, or Holiday
City of Alexandria	\$135	\$25	\$25
Arlington County	\$135	\$30	\$30
City of Falls Church	\$135	\$25	\$25
City of Fairfax	\$150	\$30	\$30
Fairfax County	\$150	\$30	\$30
City of Manassas	\$150	\$30	\$30
City of Manassas Park	\$150	\$30	\$30
Loudoun County	\$150	\$30	\$30
Prince William County	\$150	\$30	\$30



# Trespass Tow Trends



## Discussion

APD Data for private towing (initiated by private companies, typically on private property).

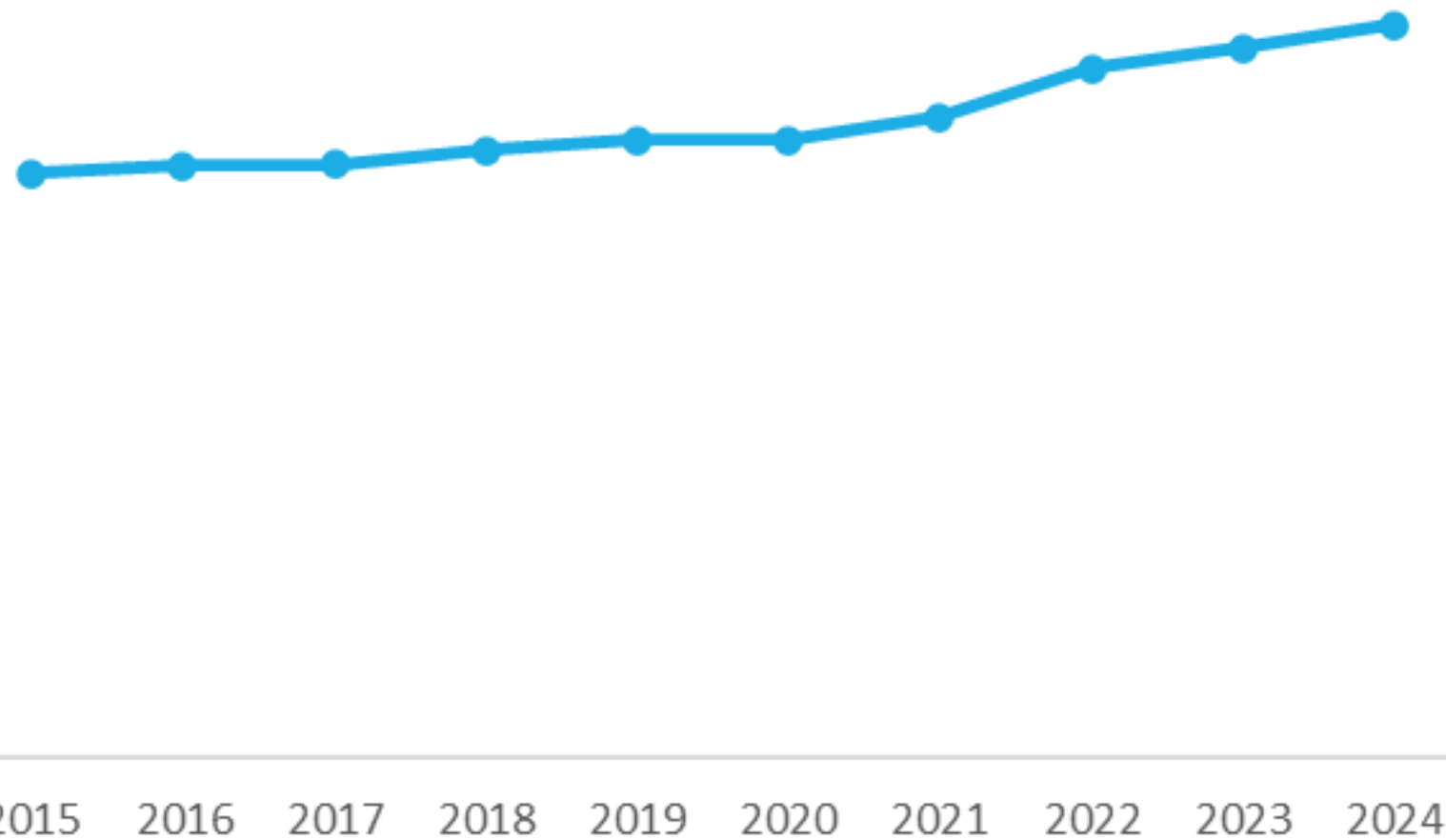




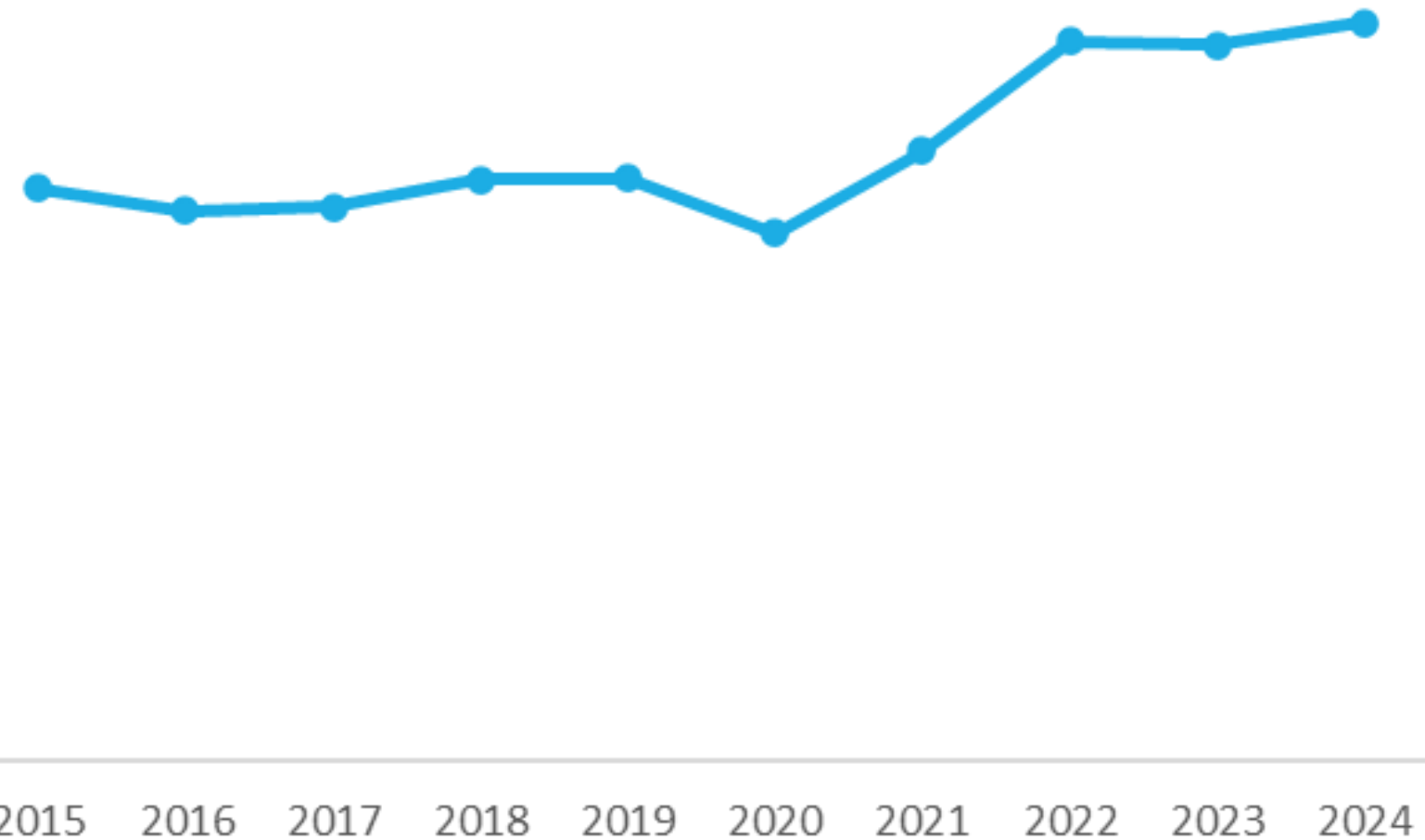
# Bureau of Labor Statistics

Inflation has increased since the City last set the towing fee in June 2015.<sup>5</sup>

DC area inflation increased by 25%



Transportation inflation in the DC area increased by 29%





# Trespass Fee Analysis

In all instances, the City's towing fees either **match the majority** of neighboring jurisdictions **or are lower**

Neighboring jurisdictions: Fairfax Co., Prince William, Arlington, Falls Church



**Hooked, up but not towed**  
\$50 in **3/5** jurisdictions, incl. City



**Storage**  
\$50 in **all but Falls Church**



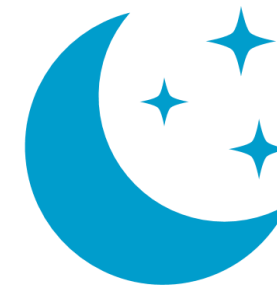
**Fuel Surcharge**  
\$20 in **all** jurisdictions



**Towed**  
\$150 in **3/5** jurisdictions, excl. City



**Notify/Admin**  
\$75 in **2/5** jurisdictions, incl. City\*



**After Hours**  
\$30 in **3/5** jurisdictions, excl. City

\*Arlington does not assess/ Falls Church data was unavailable



# Staff Recommendations

## That City Council:

1. Receive and approve the proposed ordinance to amend the trespass towing fee of \$135 to \$150 and increase the after-hours charge of \$25 to \$30; and
2. Schedule it for a second reading, public hearing, and final passage on Saturday, November 16, 2024.



# Appendices

## “Trespass Fee Scenario”





# Trespass Fee Scenario

To understand how this may affect someone, the Towing Advisory Board ran four scenarios:

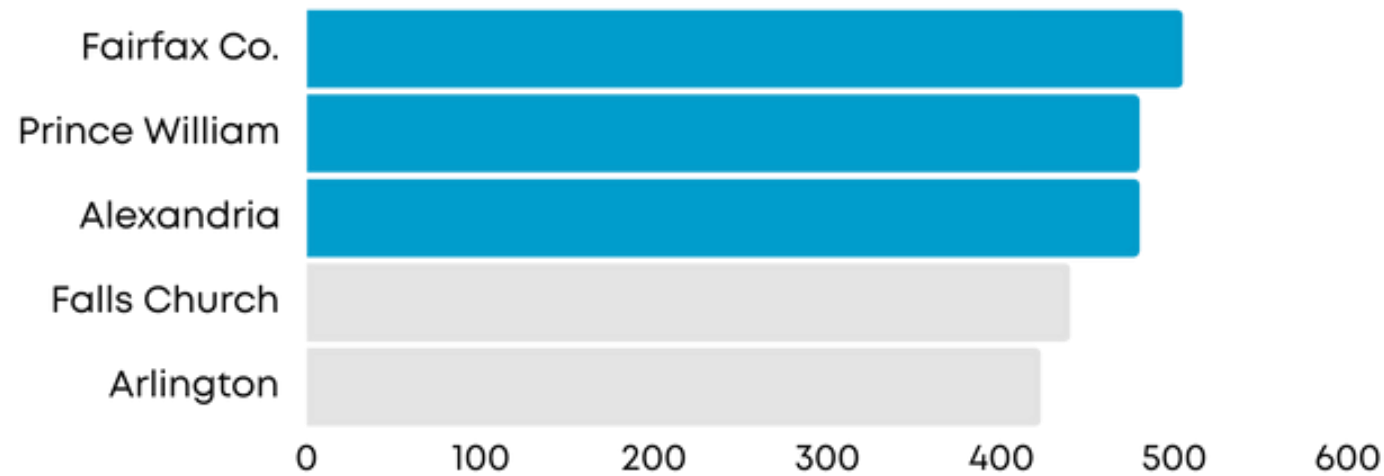
Scenario	Tow	After Hours (holidays, weekends, 7 p.m. to 8 a.m.; can be charged up to 2x)	Fuel Surcharge	Storage (after 24 hours, daily)	Notify/Admin n (after 3 days)	Hooked-Up, Not Towed (drop fee)	Total
Hooked-up but not towed						\$50	<b>\$50</b>
Towed on Monday at 1 p.m.	\$135		\$20				<b>\$155</b>
Towed on Saturday at 9 p.m.	\$135	\$50	\$20				<b>\$205</b>
Towed on Saturday at 9 p.m. and stored for 5 days	\$135	\$50	\$20	\$200	\$75		<b>\$480</b>



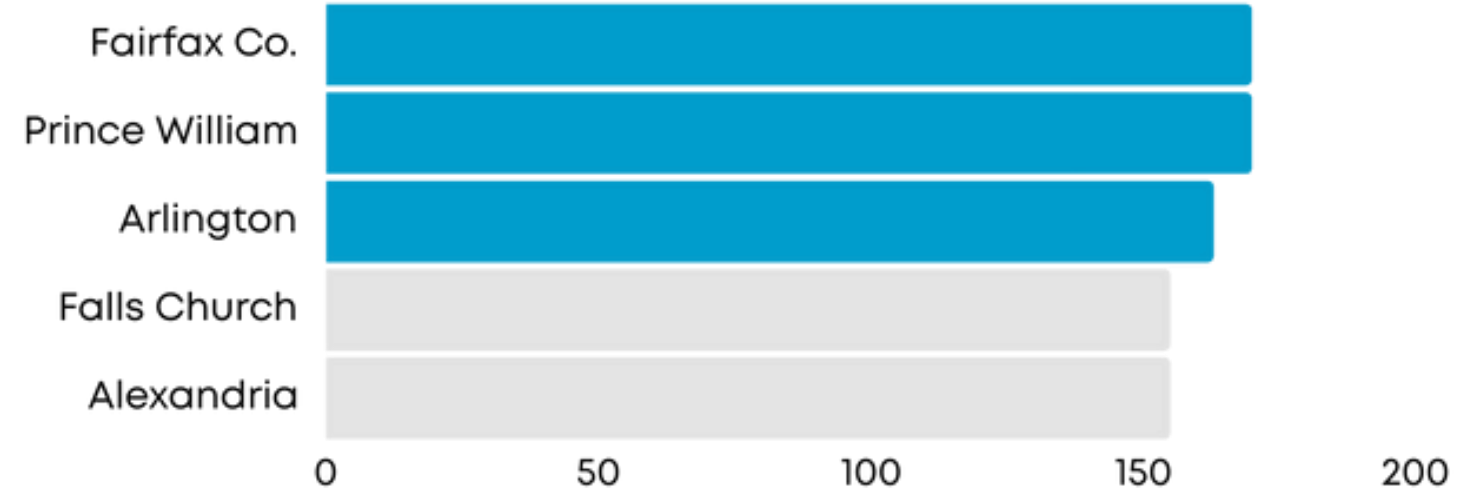
# Trespass Fee Scenario

When fees are stacked, the City is still **aligned** with or **lower** than its neighbors

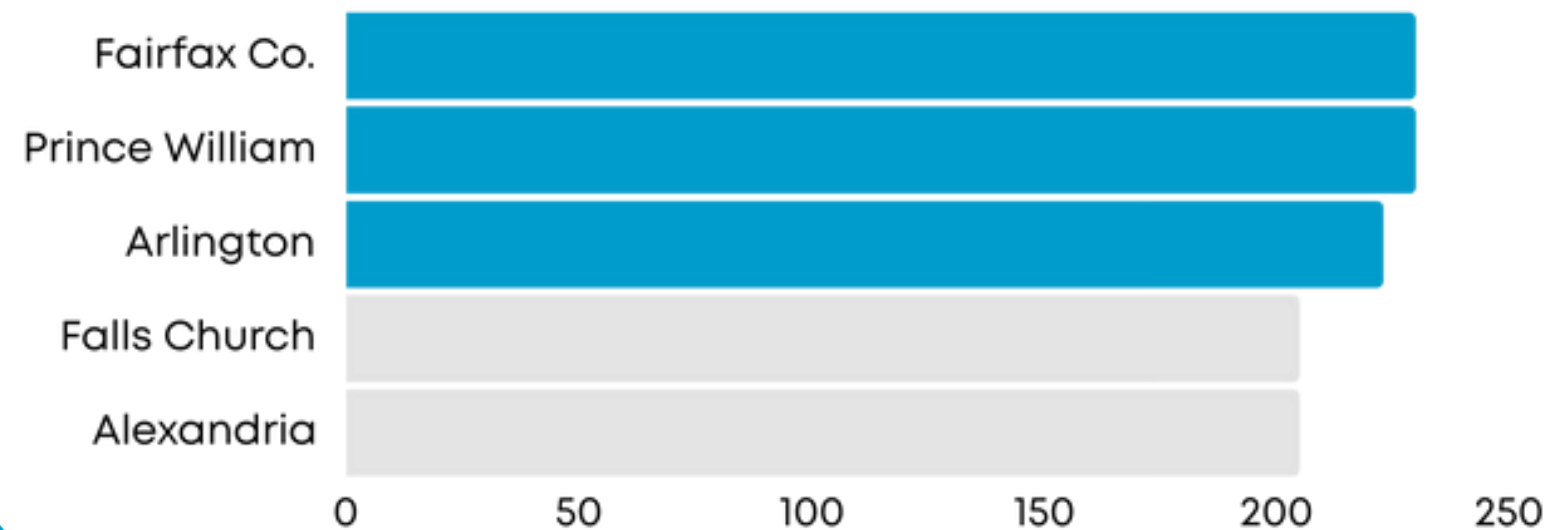
**Towed Sat at 9 p, Stored 5 Days**  
Alexandria is aligned



**Towed Monday at 1 p**  
Alexandria is low



**Towed Sat at 9 p**  
Alexandria is low





# Trespass Towing Fee

- ▶ The trespass towing fee is a charge to remove and tow a vehicle from private property. (apartment complex, parking lot, or another private location)
- ▶ A trespass tow may occur because a vehicle has no parking permits, an expired parking permit, expired plates, or similar issues.
  - ▶ This excludes other kinds of towing, like a vehicle owner requesting a tow for a broken vehicle.
- ▶ The City sets the fee as established by the State.
- ▶ The Towing Advisory Board recommends reviewing the City's trespass towing fee.