

**AN ORDINANCE
AMENDING THOSE PORTIONS OF THE CHARLESTON COUNTY CODE SECTION
2-137 DEALING WITH FEES IN THE BUILDING SERVICES AND RADIO
COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENTS**

Section 1.0 Purpose of Amendment, Findings

WHEREAS, County staff have reviewed Building Services fees as they compare to surrounding local governments and as they compare to the costs of supplying various services, and

WHEREAS, as a result of this inquiry, the County Administrator has reported that certain fees are below those charged by other local governments and also do not recover an appropriate portion of the costs of providing the services related thereto, and

WHEREAS, Council finds that certain fees charged by the Building Services Department should be increased, and

WHEREAS, Council has authorized upgrading of the 800 MHz communications system, through entering into contracts and purchasing equipment to phase in the upgrade, and

WHEREAS, the existing analog 800 MHz system is at risk of failure due to the aging system's unsupported software and lack of available spare parts, and

WHEREAS, Charleston County will be responsible for the entire cost of infrastructure for the digital upgrade to the system which meets federal standards for interoperability, and

WHEREAS, the digital system will be more expensive to maintain than the current analog system, and

WHEREAS, a user fee is a means to help defray the yearly operational cost of maintaining the digital system, in an equitable manner, to be charged to all users, and

WHEREAS, Council therefore finds that it is in the best interest of Charleston County and the system users to establish fees for use of the 800 MHz Astro-25 digital radio communications system,

NOW, THEREFORE, be it ordained by Charleston County Council, in meeting duly assembled, as follows:

Section 2.0 Text Change

1. The pertinent portions of Section 2-137 of the Charleston County Code of Ordinances entitled "Building Inspections" are hereby amended to read as follows:

Building Inspections

1. Building/Roofing/Swimming Pool Permit Fees

Total Valuation	Fee
\$1,000 and less	No fee, unless an inspection is required, in which case a \$50.00 fee will be charged.
\$1,000 to \$2,000	\$50.00
\$2,001 to \$15,000	\$50.00 for the first \$2,000 + \$3.00 per \$1,000
\$15,001 to \$50,000	\$100.00 for the first \$15,000 + \$4.00 per \$1,000
\$50,001 to \$100,000	\$240.00 for the first \$50,000 + \$3.50 per \$1,000
\$100,001 to \$500,000	\$415 for the first \$100,000 + \$3.35 per \$1,000
\$500,001 and up	\$1,755 for the first \$500,000 + \$2.50 per \$1,000
Plan Review Fee	½ Permit Fee
Moving Fee	\$100.00
Demolition Fee	\$50.00
“A” or “V” Flood Zone Filing Fee	\$15.00 per each permit

2. A new subsection is hereby added to the Section 2-137, to be numbered by the code publisher, which shall read as follows:

800 MHz Digital Radio Communications System

User Fees for 800 MHz digital radio communications system shall be as follows:

\$25.00 per radio per month for primary use of Charleston County’s Astro-25 Digital Radio System

\$5.00 per radio per month optional private call feature

There shall be no charge for casual use by agencies which do not use the system as their primary radio communications system or for mutual aid usage of the system.

Section 3.0 Effective dates; severability

The changes in the Building Services fees shall be effective immediately following approval at third reading of this ordinance. The user fees for the 800 MHz system upgrade shall be payable immediately beginning upon transition of users onto the digital radio system

If any provision of this ordinance or its application to any circumstance is held by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid for any reason, this holding does not affect other provisions or applications of this ordinance which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end, the provisions of this ordinance are severable.