

Business Impact Estimate

Ordinance No. 2025-03 — An Ordinance of the City Commission of the City of Starke Updating Investigation Fees for False Alarm Calls from Alarm Systems Within the City of Starke; Providing for Suspension of Alarm Systems; Prohibiting Automatic Telephone Dialing Systems; Providing for Appeals; Allocating Revenues Generated by Investigative Fees; Providing for Severance; and Providing an Effective Date

This Business Impact Estimate is provided in accordance with section 166.041(4), Florida Statutes. If one or more boxes are checked below, this means the [City/Town/Village] is of the view that a business impact estimate is not required by state law¹ for the proposed ordinance, but the [City/Town/Village] is, nevertheless, providing this Business Impact Estimate as a courtesy and to avoid any procedural issues that could impact the enactment of the proposed ordinance. This Business Impact Estimate may be revised following its initial posting.

- ☐ The proposed ordinance is required for compliance with Federal or State law or regulation;
- ☐ The proposed ordinance relates to the issuance or refinancing of debt;
- ☐ The proposed ordinance relates to the adoption of budgets or budget amendments, including revenue sources necessary to fund the budget;
- ☐ The proposed ordinance is required to implement a contract or an agreement, including, but not limited to, any Federal, State, local, or private grant or other financial assistance accepted by the municipal government;
- ☐ The proposed ordinance is an emergency ordinance;
- ☐ The ordinance relates to procurement; or
- ☐ The proposed ordinance is enacted to implement the following:
 - a. Part II of Chapter 163, Florida Statutes, relating to growth policy, county and municipal planning, and land development regulation, including zoning, development orders, development agreements and development permits;
 - b. Sections 190.005 and 190.046, Florida Statutes, regarding community development districts;
 - c. Section 553.73, Florida Statutes, relating to the Florida Building Code; or
 - d. Section 633.202, Florida Statutes, relating to the Florida Fire Prevention Code.

In accordance with the provisions of controlling law, even notwithstanding the fact that an exemption noted above may apply, the [City/Town/Village] hereby publishes the following information:

¹ See Section 166.041(4)(c), Florida Statutes.

1. Summary of the proposed ordinance (must include a statement of the public purpose, such as serving the public health, safety, morals and welfare):

This ordinance updates the investigation fee structure for false alarm responses within the City of Starke. Its purpose is to reduce the strain on public safety resources caused by repeated false alarms from alarm systems in residential and commercial properties. The ordinance imposes escalating fees for excessive false alarms, prohibits the use of automatic telephone dialing systems that contact emergency services directly, and allows for allocation of collected fees to cover administrative costs and support fire department operations. The ordinance promotes the public health, safety, and welfare by ensuring emergency resources remain available for legitimate emergencies.

2. An estimate of the direct economic impact of the proposed ordinance on private, for-profit businesses in the City of Starke, if any:

(a) An estimate of direct compliance costs that businesses may reasonably incur;

Businesses may incur costs associated with routine alarm maintenance or inspections to avoid false alarms. No additional equipment or infrastructure costs are required by this ordinance

(b) Any new charge or fee imposed by the proposed ordinance or for which businesses will be financially responsible; and

A business may be subject to investigation fees if its alarm system results in more than four false alarms in any 12-month period. The fee is \$250 per false alarm for the 5th through 8th incident, and \$500 for the 9th and subsequent incidents within the same period.

(c) An estimate of the [City's/Town's/Village's] regulatory costs, including estimated revenues from any new charges or fees to cover such costs.

Regulatory costs include administrative oversight by the Chief Administrative Officer, tracking and mailing notices, and accounting/reporting functions. Based on recent historical trends, the City estimates approximately \$2,500 to \$5,000 annually in potential fee revenue, which will be applied first to administrative costs and then to the Starke Fire Department

3. Good faith estimate of the number of businesses likely to be impacted by the proposed ordinance:

Approximately 25–40 businesses currently maintain monitored alarm systems in the City of Starke. However, only a small percentage are expected to exceed the threshold for false alarm fees based on past response data. The ordinance is expected to impact fewer than 10 businesses per year

4. Additional information the governing body deems useful (if any):

The City of Starke reviewed public safety response data from the past 24 months and found that a small number of alarm sites were responsible for a disproportionate number of false alarms. This ordinance is intended to encourage compliance and preventative maintenance, not to generate revenue. The proposed fees are structured to only apply to repeated false alarms. The ordinance applies equally to residential and business alarm users.

No additional reporting requirements are imposed on businesses beyond responding to a false alarm notification if received. The City may revisit the fee structure annually based on actual costs and impact.