

Ordinance Summary published in the Miami County Republic on March 22, 2023 and the full text of the Ordinance made available at www.cityofpaola.com for a minimum of 1 week from the date of publication.

Ordinance No. 3200 Summary

On March 14, 2023, the City of Paola, Kansas, adopted Ordinance No. 3200, amending Chapter 7: Fire; Article 1: Fire Department; Section 7-111: False Alarms of the Paola Municipal Code to establish a fee schedule related to the increased amount of false alarm calls and ability to recover costs. A complete copy of this ordinance may be obtained or viewed free of charge at the Office of the City Clerk at City Hall, 19 E Peoria Street or at www.cityofpaola.com. This summary is certified by Lee H. Tetwiler, Paola City Attorney pursuant to K.S.A. 12-3001, et seq.

ORDINANCE NO. 3200

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 7: FIRE, ARTICLE 1: FIRE DEPARTMENT, SECTION 7-111: FALSE ALARMS, OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF THE CITY OF PAOLA, KANSAS.

BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council of the City of Paola, Kansas, as follows:

SECTION 1. That Section 7-111 is hereby amended to read as follows:

7-111. False Alarms.

(a) The fire chief, or his designee, shall maintain a record of all false alarms that Paola Fire Department has responded to, determine if the alarms are excessive, and notify the responsible alarm company, in addition to the property owner/operator, by registered mail of any false alarm charges.

(b) The Paola Fire Department has the authority to order a fire watch for a facility experiencing multiple false alarms. Paola Fire Department personnel can place the facility on fire watch to address temporary problems with the alarm system and to reduce the number of false alarms in a short period. "Fire watch" means an approved person or persons provided by the facility assigned to the premise to protect the occupants from fire or similar emergencies. A fire watch may involve at least some special action beyond normal staffing, such as assigning additional staff to walk the premises, who has been specially trained in fire prevention and the use of fire extinguishers, in notifying the County Communications Center, in sounding the fire alarm system located on the premises, and in understanding the particular fire safety situation. The owner is responsible for paying all costs associated with establishing a fire watch.

(c) A false alarm charge shall be forwarded via registered mail to the property owners/operators when Paola Fire Department responds more than three times in any six-month period.

(1) A property must go six-months without a false alarm, after the last recorded false alarm call before the six-month period can end. The charge shall be according to the following criteria:

- \$125 will be charged for the fourth false alarm in any six-month period.
- \$175 will be charged for the fifth false alarm in any six-month period.
- \$225 will be charged for the sixth and each successive false alarm in any six-month period.

(d) The owner or fire alarm company may file an appeal of a fee with the fire chief by setting forth the reasons for the appeal within fifteen (15) business days after the fire chief provides notification of the fee. Filing an appeal stays the fee until the review of the appeal has been completed. If an appeal is not filed within the fifteen (15) business day period, the action of the fire chief is final. The fire chief may adjust the count of false fire alarms based on:

- (1) Evidence that an act of God caused the alarm;
- (2) Evidence that an action of the telephone company caused the alarm;
- (3) Evidence that the alarm was caused by a power outage lasting longer than twenty-four (24) hours;
- (4) Evidence that the alarm was not a false fire alarm.

SECTION 2. Any and all ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

SECTION 3. That this ordinance shall become effective after its passage, approval, and publication in the official city newspaper pursuant to KSA 12-3001, et seq.

ADOPTED by the Governing Body of the City of Paola this 14th day of March, 2023.

APPROVED by the Mayor of the City of Paola this 14th day of March, 2023.



ATTEST: [


Stephanie Marler, City Clerk


Leigh House, Mayor