

**Watertown City Council**February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023**Agenda Item: Tree Removal in City Right-Of-Way (ROW)****Request for Action: Motion to Approve Practice Regarding Tree Removal in City Right-of-Way****Employee/Dept.: Mike Dressel Public Services****Background:**

The current practice of removing trees from the ROW is to hire a local tree contractor and have them remove the tree and the stump. Once the tree and the stump are removed the contractor invoices the city for the work that was completed. The cost of the tree and the stump removal is then split 50/50 with the property owner and the city, per our City Ordinance.

With the acquisition of a brush chipper and the presence of EAB in our community, staff would like to start removing trees from the ROW and invoice the property owner for 50% of the cost. The city is not equipped to handle the removal of every tree that needs to be removed in the ROW and still would have to hire a local tree contractor to remove certain trees. Currently we do not have a Fee Schedule for the removal of trees that are cost shared 50/50 with the property owner.

The proposed Fee Schedule for trees and stumps that the city removes is as follows:

	Total Cost	50 /50 Split Cost
Cost for each inch diameter of the tree after 8 inches	\$50.00	\$25.00
Minimum Cost	\$400.00	\$200.00
Maximum Cost	\$2000.00	\$1000.00

**Recommendation:**

Staff recommends adopting the amended Fee Schedule

**Motion Type:**

Simple majority vote of members present.

**Requested Action/Motion:**

*I move to adopt the described practice for the tree removal in City rights-of-way.*

**Attachments:**