

ORDINANCE O-03-2026

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JACKSBORO, TEXAS, AMENDING CHAPTER 6 FIRE PREVENTION AND PROTECTION; ARTICLE 6.02 VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT; BY ADDING SECTION 6.02.009 FALSE FIRE ALARMS IN COMMERCIAL BUSINESSES; PROVIDING FOR ENFORCEMENT OF PENALTIES AND FEES FOR EXCESSIVE FALSE ALARMS, APPEALS AND EXEMPTIONS; REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES OR PARTS OF ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HEREWITH; PROVIDING A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the City of Jacksboro, (here forth referred to as “the City”) as a Type A General Law Municipality, may adopt, publish or amend an ordinance that is for the good government, peace or order of the municipality and is necessary or proper for carrying out a power granted by law to the municipality, under Texas Local Government Code, Chapter 51; and

WHEREAS, the City has previously adopted the 2018 International Fire Code (IFC) as the municipal fire code pursuant to Texas Local Government Code, Section 214.001; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has determined that excessive false fire alarms are creating unnecessary emergency responses by the Jacksboro Fire Department, increasing hazards to the public and first responders, and reducing the availability of personnel and equipment for actual emergencies; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has determined that it is in the best interest of the health, safety and general welfare of the public to amend Chapter 6. Fire Prevention and Protection of the Code of Ordinances by establishing penalties and fees for commercial businesses with excessive false alarms as follows:

CHAPTER 6 FIRE PREVENTION AND PROTECTION ARTICLE 6.02 VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT SECTION 6.02.009 FALSE FIRE ALARMS IN COMMERCIAL BUSINESSES.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JACKSBORO, TEXAS, THAT:

SECTION 1. All of the above premises are hereby found to be true and correct and are hereby approved and incorporated into the body of this ordinance as if copied in their entirety.

SECTION 2. Chapter 6 Fire Prevention and Protection of the City of Jacksboro Code of Ordinances is hereby amended by the addition of Section 6.02.009 False Fire Alarms in Commercial Businesses, as set forth in the attached “Attachment A”.

SECTION 3. PENALTIES AND FEES. An enforceable penalty and fee shall be established by the establishment of this Ordinance, as set forth in in the attached “Attachment A”.

SECTION 4. REPEALING CLAUSE. All provisions of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Jacksboro, Texas, in conflict with the provisions of this Ordinance, be, and the same are hereby, repealed, and all other provisions not in conflict with the provisions of this Ordinance shall remain in full force and affect.

SECTION 5. SEVERABILITY. It is declared to be the intent of the City Council that the phrases, clauses,

sentences, paragraphs, and sections of this ordinance are severable, and if any phrase, clause, sentence, paragraph, or section of this Ordinance is declared invalid by the judgment or decree of a court of competent jurisdiction, the invalidity shall not affect any of the remaining phrases, clauses, sentences, paragraphs, or sections of this Ordinance since the City Council would have enacted them without the invalid portion.

SECTION 6. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Ordinance shall become effective and be in full force and effect from and after the date of its passage.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JACKSBORO, TEXAS, THIS THE 12TH DAY OF JANUARY 2026.

CITY OF JACKSBORO



ALTON MORRIS
MAYOR

ATTEST:




SHALYN L. BURRITT
CITY SECRETARY

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

SPILLER & SPILLER

P. O. Drawer 447
Jacksboro, Texas 76458
Telephone: (940) 567-6644
Facsimile: (940) 567-3999

By: 
David Spiller
State Bar No. 18934950
Email: david@spillerlaw.net
Mason Spiller
State Bar No. 24095168
Email: mason@spillerlaw.net
Reid Spiller
State Bar Associate No. 24111067
Email: reid@spillerlaw.net
Attorneys for the City of Jacksboro

Attachment A

ARTICLE 6.02 VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

SECTION 6.02.009

False Fire Alarms in Commercial Businesses

(A) Authority.

- (1) This ordinance is adopted under the authority granted to General-Law Type A municipalities by Texas Local Government Code Chapters 51.

(B) Definitions.

For the purposes of this section:

- (1) False Alarm means the activation of a fire alarm system that results in the response of the Jacksboro Fire Department when no fire, smoke, emergency condition, or authorized system test exists.
- (2) Alarm User means the person, business, property owner, manager, tenant, or entity responsible for a fire alarm system within the City of Jacksboro.
- (3) Month means thirty (30) day period.
- (4) Fire Code Official means the Fire Chief of the City of Jacksboro or his/her designated representative.

(C) False Fire Alarm Regulations.

- (1) Allowable False Alarms - The City permits up to three (3) false fire alarms per alarmed location within a single calendar month without penalty.
- (2) Fees for Excessive False Alarms - Beginning with the fourth (4th) false alarm within the same calendar month, the following fees shall be assessed:

1st – 3rd: No Fee

4th: \$100

5th: \$150

6th: \$200

7th and each additional false alarm: \$250 per occurrence

(3) Billing and Payment -

- (a) The City shall issue an invoice for each assessed false alarm fee.
- (b) The Alarm User shall remit full payment within 30 days of the invoice date.
- (c) Failure to pay may result in:
 1. Municipal court action to recover fees and civil penalties; or
 2. Any other remedy available under Texas law.

(D) Exemptions.

False alarm fees shall not be charged for:

- (1) Fire alarms caused by weather-related conditions, including lightning, wind, flood, or other acts of God.
- (2) Alarms resulting from utility service interruptions outside the Alarm User's control.
- (3) Documented equipment malfunctions, provided that the Alarm User submits evidence that repairs were completed within 72 hours of the malfunction.
- (4) Alarms resulting from authorized testing, inspection, or maintenance when prior notice is given to the Fire Code Official.
- (5) Any other circumstance deemed appropriate by the Fire Code Official.

(E) Duties of Alarm Users.

All alarm users in the City of Jacksboro shall:

- (1) Maintain their alarm systems in proper operating condition.
- (2) Promptly repair or replace defective components.
- (3) Ensure that all occupants and employees are properly trained in the system's operation.
- (4) Provide the Jacksboro Fire Department with current emergency contact information.

(F) Enforcement and Penalties.

- (1) A violation of any provision of this ordinance is a Class C misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed \$500 per offense, except where state law provides for a different maximum penalty.
- (2) Each false alarm occurrence and each failure to comply with the duties of Alarm Users constitutes a separate offense.

(G) Appeals.

- (1) An Alarm User may appeal the determination of a false alarm within 10 business days after notification.
- (2) Appeals shall be submitted in writing to the Fire Code Official.
- (3) The Fire Code Official shall issue a written decision within 10 business days.
- (4) The Alarm User may further appeal to the City Manager within 10 business days of the Fire Code Official's decision.
- (5) The City Manager's decision is final.

(Ordinance O-03-2026 adopted 01/12/2026)