

CITY OF UNALASKA
UNALASKA, ALASKA

ORDINANCE 2026-06

AN ORDINANCE OF THE UNALASKA CITY COUNCIL AUTHORIZING THE REDUCTION OF RATES FOR ACCEPTING SCRAP METAL AND JUNK VEHICLES AT THE LANDFILL BY 50% BETWEEN APRIL 1, 2026 AND MAY 30, 2026

WHEREAS, the City of Unalaska Schedule of Fees and Charges is adopted by a non-code ordinance; and

WHEREAS, the Schedule of Fees and Charges contains fees for disposal of scrap metal and commercial vehicles at the Unalaska Landfill; and

WHEREAS, the current rate to dispose of scrap metal at the Unalaska Landfill is \$1,460.40 per ton and \$1,332.61 per commercial vehicle; and

WHEREAS, the Solid Waste Division has procured a contractor to dispose of these materials at a rate of \$513.24 per ton of scrap metal and \$769.88 per commercial vehicle; and

WHEREAS, it is requested that the fee for disposal of scrap metal and commercial vehicles be reduced by 50% between April 1, 2026 and May 30, 2026; and

WHEREAS, the Parks, Culture, & Recreation Department also organizes a community-wide cleanup event during this time; and

WHEREAS, the Unalaska City Council wishes to encourage community-wide cleanup and the removal of scrap metal and derelict vehicles in Unalaska.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Unalaska City Council authorizes the reduction of rates for accepting scrap metal and commercial vehicles at the Unalaska Landfill by 50% between April 1, 2026 and May 30, 2026.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by a duly constituted quorum of the Unalaska City Council on March 24, 2026.


Vincent M. Tutiakoff, Sr.
Mayor

ATTEST:


Estkaelen P. Magdaong, CMC
City Clerk



MEMORANDUM TO COUNCIL

To: Mayor and City Council Members
From: Erik Hernandez, Utilities Director
Through: Abner L. Hoage, Interim City Manager
Date: March 10, 2026
Re: Ordinance 2026-06 Authorizing the reduction of rates for accepting scrap metal and junk vehicles at the landfill by 50% between April 1, 2026 and May 30, 2026

SUMMARY: Ordinance 2026-06 requests authorization to reduce the metal and vehicle disposal rates on the FY26 Fee Schedule by 50% between April 1, 2026 through May 30, 2026.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION: Previous Council actions related to this ordinance are outlined below:

- Council adopted Ordinance 2025-01, Creating Budget Amendment #1 to the Fiscal Year 2025 Budget, appropriating \$477,852.03 from the Crab Disaster Relief Funds of \$270,726; and the Dinh judgment of \$207,126.03 into the DRIVE Project to fund the removal of junk and abandoned vehicles and other recycling efforts.
- Council adopted Ordinance 2025-06, Amending the fee schedule specifying the fees and charges for services, labor and equipment provided by the City effective July 1, 2025.
- Council adopted Resolution 2025-62, Authorizing the City Manager to enter into an agreement with OC Environmental Services, LLC for Scrap Metal and Vehicle Disposal and Recycling Services, in the amount not to exceed \$808,358.

BACKGROUND: Over the past several years, Unalaska has seen a significant increase in scrap metal volumes and unclaimed, abandoned vehicles community-wide. In 2024, staff was directed to identify a practical approach to address the growing accumulation of material across the island. Backhaul options were evaluated to remove portions of the scrap metal off-island; however, costs, limited labor availability, and the lack of established procedures made this approach infeasible, especially given the tight prescheduled bookings of available barges.

In September 2025, staff issued an Invitation to Bid (ITB) for scrap vehicle and metal removal and disposal, resulting in a contract with OC Environmental Services, LLC (OCE). This established the foundation needed to properly execute the program by providing a reliable means of disposal for the material to be received. Since then, staff have additionally finalized an inventory of abandoned vehicles and executed towing and fluid removal service contracts, allowing the program to be implemented.

DISCUSSION: Disposal of scrap metal and vehicles is the second-most expensive service commodity provided by the Solid Waste Division, behind Trawl Nets. Cost is often the deciding factor for residents, small businesses, and industry when disposing of metal, which has resulted in island-wide stockpiling of material and leading to code violations. Due to the remoteness of Unalaska and the high cost of shipping, the City cannot consistently offer this service at a low or discounted rate without a subsidy. With Council approval, funds were allocated to the DRIVE

Project and an application was submitted for the EPA Solid Waste Infrastructure For Recycling (SWIFR) grant program, with a successful selection, to provide a practical community-wide solution. Future incentives will be brought forward following awards of additional disposal services, ensuring sufficient revenue recovery.

Bids for the ITB closed in October 2025, with pricing within, or slightly below the anticipated budget. Staff verified the barge size and capacity with OCE, which are more than adequate to handle the quantities outlined in the ITB, allowing the City to extend this benefit to the community.

This effort also supports broader community cleanup goals and is scheduled to align with the community cleanup event organized by the Parks, Culture, and Recreation Department, allowing for maximum participation and overall impact.

ALTERNATIVES: Council may adopt the Ordinance as presented or not; and to make amendments.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS: Even though reducing the fee to accept scrap metal and junk vehicles means reduced revenue, with the fee charged by OCE, the city will break even.

LEGAL: None necessary.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends adoption of Ordinance 2026-06

PROPOSED MOTION: On first reading – I move to introduce Ordinance 2026-06 and schedule it for public hearing and second reading on March 24, 2026.

On second reading: I move to adopt Ordinance 2026-06.

CITY MANAGER COMMENTS: This ordinance is a follow-through on the broader cleanup and recycling effort the Council has supported over the past two years. As outlined in the memo, staff now has the full set of contracts, inventory work, and disposal capacity in place to execute the program effectively. Reducing the disposal rates for scrap metal and junk vehicles during this short window allows residents and businesses to participate at a more accessible cost while still ensuring the City breaks even under the contracted rates with OCE.

The timing also aligns with the community cleanup event organized by Parks, Culture, and Recreation, which should help maximize participation and overall impact. Staff will continue monitoring volumes and operational needs as the program moves forward.

I support the Utilities Director's recommendation and believe this temporary rate reduction is consistent with Council's prior direction and the goals of the DRIVE Project.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Reduction flyer (draft)
2. News Media Release (draft)
3. Vehicle disposal steps flyer (draft)
4. Vehicle destruction packet

MEMORANDUM TO COUNCIL

To: Mayor and City Council Members
From: Erik Hernandez, Utilities Director
Through: Abner Hoage, Interim City Manager
Date: March 24, 2026
Re: Vehicle Disposal at Unalaska Landfill

SUMMARY: This memo provides additional guidance and background to Council and the community on the City's current practices for accepting junk vehicles at the Unalaska Landfill.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION: None.

BACKGROUND: None.

DISCUSSION: The Unalaska Landfill accepts vehicles that are properly prepared for disposal. Preparation includes removal of fluids, batteries, and tires. If needed, staff may assist with tire removal when transportation by flatbed truck is not available.

Vehicles registered for personal use and under a 1-ton rating are accepted at no charge.

Vehicles registered for commercial use – including sedans, SUVs, pick-up trucks, and any vehicle with a 1-ton rating or higher (dump trucks, heavy equipment) are subject to a disposal fee. The FY26 commercial vehicle disposal rate is \$1,332.61. Solid Waste Division Staff coordinate with the Alaska Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) Staff to ensure vehicles covered by the biennial motor vehicle registration tax are not charged disposal fees.

Vehicle owners may prepare the vehicles themselves or hire a contractor or mechanic. All vehicles must have fluids, batteries, and personal property removed, with no visible drips of oils, fuel, and antifreeze. Owners must also complete a "Release for Vehicle Destruction" packet in advance, certified by the DMV or Police Department. Vehicles that are not properly prepared will not be accepted.

Although staff have procedures in place to mitigate minor drips, and spills for accidental or unexpected residual leakage, the landfill is a permitted facility (Landfill Permit SW1A009-28) and prohibits hazardous waste within the disposal area. Vehicles or equipment that pose an environmental risk cannot be accepted.

Once a vehicle is accepted, the appropriate fee is determined, and the "Certification of Vehicle Destruction" is submitted to the DMV.

A step-by-step guide for vehicle disposal at the Unalaska Landfill is attached.

ALTERNATIVES: None.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS: None.

LEGAL: None.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: None.

PROPOSED MOTION: None.

CITY MANAGER COMMENTS: This supplemental memo is intended to provide additional clarity for Council and the community regarding the City's existing process for accepting junk vehicles at the landfill. The procedures outlined here reflect long-standing operational practices designed to ensure environmental compliance, protect staff and equipment, and maintain consistency with the City's landfill permit requirements.

The information is not tied to any policy change or action item this evening. It simply summarizes the preparation requirements, fee structure, and coordination steps that Solid Waste staff follow when vehicles are brought in for disposal. Staff will continue to work with residents and businesses to ensure vehicles are properly prepared and can be accepted safely.

No Council action is requested.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Steps for Vehicle Disposal
- Release for Vehicle Destruction Form
- Certification of Vehicle Destruction Form

DISCOUNT SCRAP METAL AND VEHICLE RATES

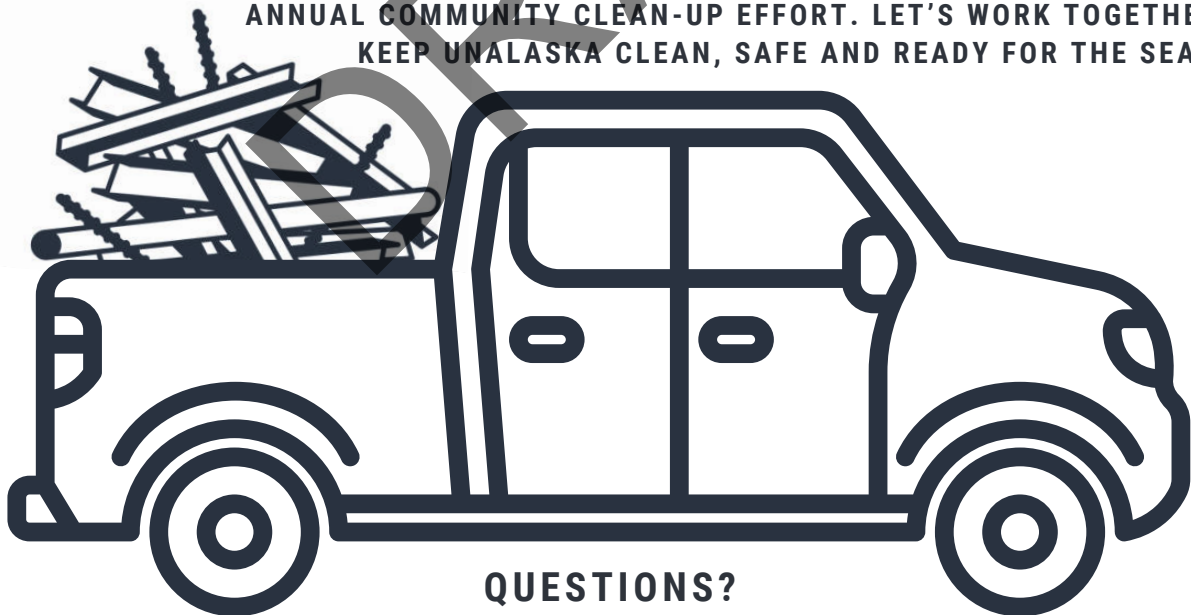
APRIL 1, 2026 - MAY 30, 2026

SCRAP METAL: \$730.20 PER TON (50% DISCOUNTED RATE)

**COMMERCIAL VEHICLES / 1-TON+ VEHICLES:
\$666.31 PER VEHICLE (50% DISCOUNTED RATE)**

HOURS AND LOCATION: SORTED MATERIALS CAN BE
BROUGHT TO 1156 SUMMER BAY ROAD, TUESDAY
THROUGH SATURDAY 9:00AM THROUGH 6:00PM

THIS EVENT ALIGNS WITH PARKS CULTURE AND RECREATION'S
ANNUAL COMMUNITY CLEAN-UP EFFORT. LET'S WORK TOGETHER TO
KEEP UNALASKA CLEAN, SAFE AND READY FOR THE SEASON.



QUESTIONS?

CONTACT THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES OR SOLID WASTE
DIVISION BY PHONE AT 907-581-1260 OR 907-581-5757 OR BY E-MAIL AT
SCRAP@UNALASKA.GOV



CITY OF UNALASKA
DEPT. OF PUBLIC UTILITIES



CITY OF UNALASKA

43 Raven Way • P. O. Box 610
Unalaska, Alaska 99685

www.unalaska.gov

CONTACT:

Abner L. Hoage

Interim City Manager

Tel 907.581.1251

Email: ahoage@unalaska.gov

NEWS RELEASE

Wednesday, March 25, 2026, 8:30 a.m.

City Council Approves Temporary Discounted Rates for Scrap Metal and Vehicle Disposals at Unalaska Landfill

During last night's council meeting, the Unalaska City Council authorized the City Manager to temporarily reduce scrap metal and vehicle disposal rates at the Unalaska Landfill between April 1 through May 30, 2026.

City Departments, including Public Works, Public Utilities, Police, Planning and Ports and Harbors, have been collaborating to address the community's increasing number of abandoned vehicles. In January 2025, the DRIVE Project was created to support the collection, processing and off-island disposal of abandoned vehicles identified in Unalaska.

In Fall of 2025, the City awarded a contract to OC Environmental Services, LLC (OCE) the off-island removal of scrap metal and vehicles. With additional capacity available, the City is extending this opportunity to the community through a rate reduction.

To date, approximately 31 vehicles have been removed, with 45 remaining from the original 76 identified through the project.

OCE is scheduled to arrive in Unalaska to remove scrap metal and vehicles from the Unalaska Landfill starting June 7, 2026.

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STEPS FOR VEHICLE DISPOSAL

STEP 1:

COMPLETE A "RELEASE FOR DESTRUCTION" FORM AND HAVE IT CERTIFIED BY THE DMV

STEP 2:

PREPARE VEHICLE BY REMOVING ALL FLUIDS, BATTERIES AND TIRES

STEP 3:

TAKE VEHICLE TO LANDFILL FOR INSPECTION AND FEE DETERMINATION

STEP 4:

LANDFILL STAFF CERTIFIES "VERIFICATION OF VEHICLE DESTRUCTION" FORM

STEP 5:

LANDFILL STAFF WILL RETURN ALL FORMS TO DMV AND STAGE VEHICLE FOR OFF-ISLAND DISPOSAL



QUESTIONS?

CONTACT THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES OR SOLID WASTE DIVISION BY PHONE AT **907-581-1260** OR **907-581-5757** OR BY E-MAIL AT **SCRAP@UNALASKA.GOV**



CITY OF UNALASKA
DEPT. OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

CITY OF UNALASKA
Police Department
29 Safety Way POB 370
Unalaska, Alaska 99685
TEL (907) 581-1233 FAX (907) 581-5024
Kim Hankins, Police Chief



NOTICE OF VEHICLE IMPOUND

Name: _____
Address 1: _____
Address 2: _____
RE: Impounded Vehicle, UDPS Case Number _____

On _____, the City of Unalaska impounded
Color/Year/Make/Model: _____
License Plate: _____
VIN: _____

pursuant to Alaska State Statute 11.28.0101-110 because the vehicle was deemed to abandoned, junked or wrecked:

- Upon or within 10 feet of the traveled portion of a highway in excess of 48 hours.
- Upon private property in excess of 24 hours without consent of the owner or person in charge of the property.
- Upon other public property for more than 30 days without the consent of the owner or person in charge of the property.

OTHER: _____

At: _____

You are notified by this letter that, if you have any interest in this vehicle, you may reclaim it by showing proof of ownership/lien, registering the vehicle and/or removing the vehicle from its current location. If the vehicle is not reclaimed, within 30 days from the date of this notice, title to the vehicle will automatically vest with the City of Unalaska and the vehicle will either be sold at public auction or be destroyed.

If you wish for the City of Unalaska to dispose of this vehicle at no cost to you, please complete and return the attached Release for Vehicle Destruction and include the vehicle title if available.

If you have any questions, you should contact the Unalaska Department of Public Safety.

CITY OF UNALASKA
Police Department
29 Safety Way POB 370
Unalaska, Alaska 99685
TEL (907) 581-1233 FAX (907) 581-5024
Kim Hankins, Police Chief



RELEASE FOR VEHICLE DESTRUCTION

Color/Year/Make/Model: _____

License Plate: _____

VIN: _____

I am the owner of the vehicle listed above. I wish to destroy this vehicle and have the record removed from the State of Alaska Department of Motor Vehicles. I certify that one of the following is true:

I am the registered owner, I have the title and I am turning the title over to the State of Alaska.

I am the registered owner and I do not have the title to turn over to the State of Alaska.

I am not the registered owner but the title has been signed over to me by the last registered owner, and I wish to turn it over to the State of Alaska.

I am an Officer or Official of the Unalaska Department of Public Safety and certify that the vehicle has been abandoned and/or junked as defined by Alaska state law and Unalaska Code of Ordinances, and that either:

A certified letter was letter was mailed to the last registered owner and the last registered owner failed to respond within 30 days of receipt of that letter; AND a notice regarding this vehicle was published in the local paper for a minimum of 20 days with no response received from any parties with an ownership interest in this vehicle.

I agree to defend and indemnify the City of Unalaska for any and all claims for damages which may result from the City's acceptance for disposal of this vehicle.

Printed Name/Title: _____ Date: _____

Signature: _____

I HAVE READ AND UNDERSTAND THIS RELEASE AND VERIFY THE
INFORMATION PROVIDED IS TRUE AND CORRECT TO THE BEST OF MY
KNOWLEDGE

CITY OF UNALASKA
Police Department
29 Safety Way POB 370
Unalaska, Alaska 99685
TEL (907) 581-1233 FAX (907) 581-5024
Kim Hankins, Police Chief



CERTIFICATION OF VEHICLE DESTRUCTION

Color/Year/Make/Model: _____

License Plate: _____

VIN: _____

Disposal of petroleum products and other hazardous wastes in or on the Unalaska City Landfill property is prohibited under the current State and Federal regulations.

I certify that:

- The below-listed fluids and accessories were removed from this vehicle:
- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Antifreeze (Glycol) | <input type="checkbox"/> Power Steering Fluid |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hydraulic Oil | <input type="checkbox"/> Batteries |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Transmission Fluid/Oil | <input type="checkbox"/> Rear-End Fluid/Oil |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Transfer Case Oils | <input type="checkbox"/> Freon |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fuel Tank (tank punctured) | <input type="checkbox"/> Brake Fluid |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tires/Rubber | <input type="checkbox"/> Engine Oil (remove drain plug) |

The vehicle has been disposed of at a facility designated by the City of Unalaska for disposal of vehicle

The license plate for this vehicle is attached.

Completed or verified by:

Company/Organization: _____

Name/Title: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

I HAVE READ AND UNDERSTAND THIS RELEASE AND VERIFY THE
INFORMATION PROVIDED IS TRUE AND CORRECT TO THE BEST OF MY
KNOWLEDGE