

Chapter 160VEHICLES, LICENSING OF**Sections:****160-1 REQUIRED LICENSE FEE****160-2 EXEMPTIONS****160-3 ANNUAL LICENSE FEES; PRORATION****160-4 PAYMENT OF FEE TO MANAGER; PREREQUISITE PAYMENT OF PERSONAL PROPERTY TAXES****160-5 LICENSE YEAR****160-6 ISSUANCE AND ATTACHMENT OF LICENSE PLATE OR STICKER****160-7 DUPLICATE OR REPLACEMENT LICENSE PLATE OR STICKER; FEE****160-8 TRANSFERABILITY OF LICENSE PLATE OR STICKER****160-9 DISPLAY OF EXPIRED LICENSE PLATE OR STICKER PROHIBITED****160-10 PROHIBITIONS****160-11 VIOLATIONS AND PENALTIES****160-12 EXEMPTIONS**

Adopted by the Town Council of the Town of Front Royal 3-11-85. (First adopted 7-28-69 as Chapter 17 including amendments 2-14-77, 3-27-78, 2-26-79, 1-14-80). Other amendments noted where applicable.

**160-1 REQUIRED LICENSE FEE**

Every owner of a motor vehicle, trailer or semitrailer shall pay an annual license fee for the privilege of keeping and operating such vehicle in the Town except as herein provided.

**160-2 EXEMPTIONS**

A. No license fee shall be required for any motor vehicle, trailer or semitrailer exempt from state and local licenses or fees under the laws of the Commonwealth of Virginia or owned by a nonprofit educational corporation or institution.

B. A license fee shall not be imposed on any motor vehicle, trailer or semitrailer when the vehicle is owned by a non-resident of the Town and is used primarily to transport the owner to and from his place of business or employment in the Town and not used in any other manner in connection with such employment or business.

C. No license fee shall be required for any one- or two-wheel trailer of a cradle, flatbed or open pickup type which has a body width no greater than the width of the motor vehicle to which it is attached at the time of operation, which is pulled or towed by a passenger car or station wagon or a pickup or panel truck having an actual gross vehicle weight not exceeding five thousand (5,000) pounds and which is used for carrying property not exceeding one thousand (1,000) pounds at any one (1) time.

D. As provided in the Code of Virginia Section 46.1-65, no Town license fee shall be greater than the amount of the license tax imposed by the commonwealth for the same motor vehicle,

trailer or semitrailer. In the event that the Town license fee, as stated herein, is greater than any commonwealth license tax for the same vehicle, then the Town license fee as stated shall be void, and a town license fee equal to the amount of the commonwealth license tax shall be imposed.

**(Ord. No. 1-89 Added 4-24-89-Effective Upon Passage)**

E. Volunteer Fire Department and Rescue Squad members. No license fee shall be required for a motor vehicle registered in the Town of Front Royal which is owned and regularly used by an active member of an eligible Volunteer Fire Department or Volunteer Rescue Squad Company to respond to calls to perform other official Fire Department or Rescue Squad duties, provided as follows:

1. Eligible Volunteer Fire Departments and Rescue Squad Companies shall be those which receive annual financial support from the County of Warren, Virginia.
2. Eligible active members of Volunteer Fire Departments and Rescue Squad Companies shall be those meeting the specific eligibility standards promulgated by the Warren County, Virginia Board of Supervisors in accordance with Warren County Code Section 10-40.1. In addition, to be eligible hereunder, said Fire Department and Rescue Squad members must have paid all town taxes then due and owing, both real and personal.
3. Only one (1) motor vehicle per active Volunteer Fire Department or Rescue Squad member shall be exempt from the license fee. If any active Volunteer Fire Department or Rescue Squad member shall be granted a license exemption in accordance with the provisions of Warren County Code Section 10-40.1 for a vehicle registered in Warren County, said member shall not be eligible for a license fee exemption for another vehicle registered in the Town of Front Royal.
4. Application for a fee-exempt motor vehicle license must be made at the Front Royal Town Hall annually between January 15 and February 15 or for new vehicle registration, within thirty (30) days of registration with the Commonwealth of Virginia.

**(Ord. No. 6-90 Added "E" 6-11-90-Effective Upon Passage)**

**(Ord. No. 14-96 Amended "4" 12-30-96-Effective 1-10-97)**

F. Disabled Veterans. No license fee shall be required for a motor vehicle registered in the Town of Front Royal which is owned and regularly used by persons qualified to receive special state license plates as disabled veterans or their un-remarried surviving spouses under Section 46.2-739 of the Code of Virginia.

**(Ord. No. 2-06 Added (F) 2-13-06-Effective Upon Passage)**

### **160-3 ANNUAL LICENSE FEES; PRORATION**

A. Annual fees. The annual license fee for motor vehicles, trailers or semitrailers are:

1. Upon each passenger automobile, station wagon, motor home, bus, truck or similar motor vehicle: twenty-five dollars (\$25.00).
2. Upon each motorcycle, motor scooter or other similar vehicle: fifteen dollars (\$15.00).
3. Upon each trailer, semitrailer or any vehicle without motive power, except mobile homes: fifteen dollars (\$15.00). Each such trailer, semitrailer or vehicle without motive power with a gross weight of one thousand five hundred (1,500) pounds or less shall be exempt from these requirements.
4. No fee of any kind shall be charged for any passenger vehicle, pickup or panel truck bearing lawful prisoner of war license plates issued by the Commonwealth of Virginia in accordance with the provisions of the Code of Virginia, Section 46.2-746.

**(Ord. No. 1-89 Added 4-24-89-Effective Upon Passage)**

5. Twelve dollars (\$12.00) for each motor vehicle bearing Virginia National Guard license plates issued by the Commonwealth of Virginia in accordance with the provisions of the Code of Virginia, Section 46.2-744.

**(Ord. No. 1-89 Added 4-24-89-Effective Upon Passage)**

6. In no event shall the fees described in subsections 1-5 be greater than the amount of the license tax imposed by the Commonwealth of Virginia on the motor vehicle, trailer or semitrailer.

**(Ord. No. 1-89 Added "6" 4-24-89-Effective Upon Passage)**

**(Ord. No. 7-91 Amended Entire Section 2-25-91-Effective 3-1-91)**

**(Ord. No. 8-96 Amended Entire Section 6-10-96-Effective 7-1-96)**

**(Ord. No. 6-10 Amended Fees for Entire "A" 6-28-10-Effective 7-1-10)**

B. Proration of fees. All motor vehicles registered as of the effective date of this subsection shall pay a registration licensing fee equal to one-twelfth (1/12) of all fees required by Subsection A of this section, computed to the nearest cent, multiplied by the number of months in the licensing period of such motor vehicle, trailer or semitrailer.

C. Refunds. In the event that the display of a Town motor vehicle sticker is no longer required because of sale, destruction or other circumstances pertaining to the motor vehicle, the owner may surrender the motor vehicle sticker to the Town of Front Royal and receive a refund. The refund will be the prorated cost of the sticker, based on the total number of unexpired months remaining divided by the total number of months for which the sticker was valid. The unexpired months shall be computed in whole numbers, and fractions of unexpired months shall not be counted. In order to qualify for a refund, the motor vehicle sticker must be removed from display on the windshield and surrendered at the Town Hall. No refunds shall be paid on applications made after November 15 of the license year.

**(Ord. No. 17-90 Added 9-24-90-Effective Upon Passage)**

**(Ord. No. 14-96 Amended 12-30-96-Effective 7-10-97)**

D. Transitional Provisions. Vehicles licensed in the Town of Front Royal on January 15, 1997, with licenses valid through April 15, 1997, shall receive a pro-rata discount for the license period to expire February 15, 1998. Such pro-rata discount, representing the unexpired months remaining on the original license, shall be based upon the original license fee paid. The license fee for the license to expire February 15, 1998, for motor vehicles, trailers or semitrailers are:

1. Upon such passenger automobile, station wagon, motor home, bus, truck or similar motor vehicle: seventeen dollars and fifty cents (\$17.50).
2. Upon each motorcycle, motor scooter or other similar vehicle: ten dollars and thirty-three cents (\$10.33).
3. Upon each trailer, semitrailer or any vehicle without motive power, except mobile homes: ten dollars and thirty-three cents (\$10.33). Each such trailer, semitrailer and vehicle without motive power with a gross weight of one thousand five hundred (1,500) pounds or less shall be exempt from these requirements.
4. One dollar (\$1.00) for any passenger vehicle, pickup or panel truck bearing lawful prisoner of war license plates issued by the Commonwealth of Virginia in accordance with the provisions of the Code of Virginia, Section 46.2-746.
5. Eight dollars and thirty-three cents (\$8.33) for each motor vehicle bearing Virginia National Guard license plates issued by the Commonwealth of Virginia in accordance with the provisions of the Code of Virginia, Section 46.2-744.
6. In no event shall the fees described in subsections 1-5 be greater than the amount of the license tax imposed by the Commonwealth of Virginia on the motor vehicle, trailer or semitrailer.

(Ord. No. 14-96 Added Entire Section 12-30-96-Effective 7-10-97)

#### **160-4 PAYMENT OF FEE TO MANAGER; PREREQUISITE PAYMENT OF PERSONAL PROPERTY TAXES**

A. License fees shall be paid to the Town Manager or his authorized agent upon application on the forms furnished for that purpose.

B. No motor vehicle, trailer or semitrailer shall be locally licensed unless and until the applicant shall have produced satisfactory evidence that all personal property taxes upon the motor vehicle, trailer or semitrailer to be licensed have been paid which have been properly assessed or are assessable against the applicant by the Town.

(Ord. No. 3-91 Amended 160-4(C) 12-10-90-Effective Upon Passage)

(Ord. No. 1-93 Extension of (C) 1-11-93-Effective Upon Passage)

(Ord. No. 17-93 Repealed (C) "Issuance of a Joint Town/County Decal" 12-13-93-Effective 3-15-94)

**160-5 LICENSE YEAR**

A. Any vehicle license issued under the provisions of this Chapter for the license year ending February 15, 2010, shall remain valid until June 5, 2010, at which time it shall expire absolutely.

B. After June 5, 2010, the phrase "license year" as used in Section 160-10 of this Code shall mean the period from June 5th of each year to June 5th of the following year.

(Ord. No. 14-96 Amended 12-30-96-Effective 7-10-97)

(Ord. No. 12-09 Amended/Added A & B 11-23-09-Effective 1-1-10)

**160-6 ISSUANCE AND ATTACHMENT OF LICENSE PLATE OR STICKER**

Upon the payment of the prescribed fee, the Town Manager or his authorized agent shall issue to the applicant one (1) license plate which shall be securely fastened to the rear or front of the vehicle for which it was issued in a position to be clearly visible and in a condition to be clearly legible. In lieu of such license plate, the Town Manager or his agent may issue a sticker to the applicant, which is to be fastened to the front windshield of the vehicle for which it was issued in a position to be clearly visible and in a condition to be clearly legible.

(Ord. No. 4-91 Amended (B) 12-10-90-Effective 1-1-91)

(Ord. No. 1-93 Extension of (B) 1-11-93-Effective Upon Passage)

(Ord. No. 17-93 Repealed (B) "Issuance of a Joint Town/County Decal" 12-13-93-Effective 3-15-94)

**160-7 DUPLICATE OR REPLACEMENT LICENSE PLATE OR STICKER; FEE**

In the event that any license plate or sticker is lost or mutilated or becomes illegible, the person entitled thereto shall make application for and obtain a duplicate or substitute therefore, upon furnishing information which is satisfactory to the Town Manager or his agent and upon payment of a replacement fee of one dollar (\$1.) .

(Ord. No. 1-89 Added 4-24-89-Effective Upon Passage)

(Ord. No. 6-91 Amended (B) 12-10-90-Effective Upon Passage)

(Ord. No. 1-93 Extension of (B) 1-11-93-Effective Upon Passage)

(Ord. No. 17-93 Repealed (B) "Issuance of a Joint Town/County Decal" 12-13-93-Effective 3-15-94)

**160-8 TRANSFERABILITY OF LICENSE PLATE OR STICKER**

License plates or stickers shall not be transferable between owners.

**160-9 DISPLAY OF EXPIRED LICENSE PLATE OR STICKER PROHIBITED**

It shall be unlawful for any owner of a motor vehicle, trailer or semitrailer to display upon such vehicle any license plate or sticker after the expiration date of such plate or sticker.

**160-10 PROHIBITIONS**

It shall be unlawful for any owner or operator of a motor vehicle, trailer, or semitrailer, located and registered in Town, to:

A. Fail to obtain, or fail to display thereon after having been assigned thereto, a Town license plate or sticker for the current license year; or,

B. Display or allow to be displayed thereon a Town license plate or sticker after its expiration date, or while knowing the same to be fictitious, canceled, revoked, suspended or altered; or,

C. Park upon streets, alleys or grounds of the Town of Front Royal or in any other place open to the public such motor vehicle, trailer or semitrailer which does not have attached thereto and displayed thereon the Town license plate or sticker assigned thereto for the current license year.

(Amended Entire Section 6-27-16-Effective 7-1-16)

**160-11 VIOLATIONS AND PENALTIES**

Any person who violates any of the provisions of this chapter shall be guilty of a Class 4 misdemeanor. A violation of this chapter by the registered owner of the motor vehicle, trailer, or semitrailer may not be discharged by payment of a fine except upon presentation of satisfactory evidence that the required Town license plate or sticker has been obtained. The police officers of the Town are authorized to enforce the prohibitions of this chapter by issuing citations, summonses, parking tickets (Notice of Violation) or uniform traffic summonses.

(Ord. No. 16-2000 Amended 9-11-00-Effective Upon Passage)

(Amended Entire Section 6-27-16-Effective 7-1-16)

**160-12 EXEMPTIONS**

No annual registration fee prescribed in this chapter shall be required for any one (1) motor vehicle owned and used personally by any veteran who has either lost or lost the use of one (1) or both legs or an arm or a hand or who is blind or who is permanently and totally disabled, as certified by the Veterans Administration. Any such vehicle shall display special permit red, white and blue plates of a type approved by the Town Clerk. The Town Clerk shall prescribe application forms for such exemptions, and the application shall be accompanied by a statement that such veteran has been so designated or classified by the Veterans Administration as to meet the requirements of this section and that such disability is service-connected. For the purposes of this section, a person shall be considered blind if he has a permanent impairment of both eyes of the following status: central visual acuity of 20/200 or less in the better eye, with corrective glasses, or central visual activity of more than 20/200 if there is a field defect in which the peripheral field has contracted to such an extent that the widest diameter of visual field subtends an angular distance no greater than twenty degrees (20 °) in the better eye.

(Ord. No. 5-91 Amended (B) 12-10-90-Effective 1-1-91)

(Ord. No. 1-93 Extension of (B) 1-11-93-Effective Upon Passage)

(Ord. No. 17-93 Repealed (B) "Issuance of a Joint Town/County Decal" 12-13-93-Effective 3-15-94)