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ORDINANCE NO. 436 – AN ORDINANCE EXEMPTING CERTAIN COUNTY-OWNED VEHICLES FROM STATUTORY MARKING REQUIREMENTS PURSUANT TO RCW 46.08.065.

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BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS WALLA WALLA COUNTY, WASHINGTON

ORDINANCE NO. 436

AN ORDINANCE EXEMPTING CERTAIN COUNTY-OWNED VEHICLES FROM STATUTORY MARKING REQUIREMENTS PURSUANT TO RCW 46.08.065.

WHEREAS, pursuant to RCW 46.08.065, it is unlawful for any vehicle owned or controlled by any county, city, town, or public body and used in public business to be operated on public highways of this state unless and until there shall be displayed upon such automobile or other motor vehicle the name of such county, city, town, or other public body, together with the name of the department or office upon the business of which the said vehicle is used; and

WHEREAS, the statute states that...."The appropriate governing body may provide by rule or ordinance.....for exceptions to the marking requirements for local governmental agencies for the same purposes and under the same circumstances as permitted for state agencies under subsection (3) of this section", which provides an exemption for unmarked vehicles to be used for law enforcement, confidential public health work, and public assistance fraud or support investigative purposes, for vehicles leased or rented by the state on a casual basis for a period of less than ninety days, or vehicles granted a confidential license plate; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Walla Walla County Resolution 02-275 the Board of County Commissioners exempted certain vehicles from said marking requirements; however, it was determined that such exemptions must be updated and that an ordinance must be considered; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners held a public hearing on October 19, 2015.

WHEREAS, the following findings of fact and conclusions of law are hereby made:

Findings of Fact:

- 1. On October 8, 2015, a Notice of Public Hearing was published in the Waitsburg Times.
- 2. The County reviewed and utilized Grant County's similar ordinance in developing the proposed regulations.

Conclusions of Law:

1. The proposed amendments to Walla Walla County Code Title 2 are in accordance with the exceptions to vehicle markings allowed by RCW 46.08.065.

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Now Therefore, BE IT ORDAINED, by the Walla Walla County Board of Commissioners, based on the findings of fact and conclusions of law above, that:

Section I. New Chapter 2.54. Walla Walla County Code is amended to create a new Chapter 2.54 as follows:

Chapter 2.54 - COUNTY VEHICLES

2.54.010 - Short title.

This chapter shall be known and may be commonly referred to and cited as "County Vehicles."

2.54.020 - Marking—Requirements.

All County vehicles shall be marked in accordance with RCW 46.08.065, as amended, with the exceptions permitted therein of the following:

- (1) Vehicles used for law enforcement purposes, limited to the vehicles assigned to the County Sheriff's Office, the County Prosecuting Attorney's office, and the County Juvenile Justice Center;
- (2) Vehicles used for confidential public health work;
- (3) Vehicles used for public assistance fraud or support investigative purposes;
- (4) Vehicles leased or rented by the County on a casual basis for a period of less than ninety days; and
- (5) Vehicles granted use of confidential license plates by the director of motor vehicles for necessary personal security of a County officer or employee.

2.54.030 - Marking—Exceptions.

The Board of County Commissioners, in consultation with other elected officials whose offices are utilizing the vehicles, reserves the right to determine whether County vehicles are used for purposes listed in the exceptions of the rule enacted in Section 2.54.020.

- Section II. Index. The index of the Walla Walla County Code in which titles, chapters or sections are added or removed or in which title, chapter or section titles are changed herein shall also be amended to reflect the amendments.
 - Section III. Effective Date. This ordinance is effective on October 26, 2015.
- Section IV. Savings and Severability. If any section, subsection, paragraph, sentence, clause or phrase of this ordinance is declared unconstitutional or invalid for any reason, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining parts of this ordinance.

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Section V. Publication. This ordinance will be published by an approved summary consisting of the title.

PASSED by the Walla Walla County Board of County Commissioners in regular session at Walla Walla, Washington, by the following vote, then signed by its membership and attested by its Clerk in authorization of such passage this 26th day of October, 2015.

Attest:

Connie R. Vinti, Clerk of the Board

Perry L. Døzjer, Chairman, District 2

James K Johnson, Commissioner, District 1

James L. Duncan, Commissioner, District 3

Constituting the Board of County Commissioners of Walla Walla County, Washington

Approved as to form

Jesse D. Nolte, Deputy Prosecuting Attorney

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