

**TITLE 4****MUNICIPAL PERSONNEL****CHAPTER****1. TRAVEL REIMBURSEMENT REGULATIONS.****CHAPTER 1****TRAVEL REIMBURSEMENT REGULATIONS****SECTION**

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**4-101. Purpose.** The purpose of this chapter and referenced regulations is to bring the town into compliance with *Tennessee Code Annotated*, § 6-54-901--907. This law requires Tennessee municipalities to adopt travel and expense regulations covering expenses incurred by "any mayor and any member of the local governing body and any board or committee member elected or appointed by the mayor or local governing body, and any official or employee of the municipality whose salary is set by charter or general law."

To provide consistent travel regulations and reimbursement, this ordinance is expanded to cover regular city employees. It is the intent of this policy to assure fair and equitable treatment to all individuals traveling on town business at town expense.

**4-102. Enforcement.** The Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) of the town or his or her designee shall be responsible for the enforcement of these travel regulations.

**4-103. Travel policy.** (1) In the interpretation and application of this chapter, the term "traveler" or "authorized traveler" means any elected or appointed municipal officer or employee, including members of municipal boards and committees appointed by the mayor or the municipal governing body, and the employees of such boards and committees who are traveling on official municipal business and whose travel was authorized in accordance with this chapter. "Authorized traveler" shall not include the spouse, children, other relatives, friends, or companions accompanying the authorized traveler on town business, unless the person(s) otherwise qualifies as an authorized traveler under this chapter.

(2) Authorized travelers are entitled to reimbursement of certain expenditures incurred while traveling on official business for the town. Reimbursable expenses shall include expenses for transportation; lodging; meals; registration fees for conferences, conventions and seminars; and other actual and necessary expenses related to official business as determined by the CAO. Under certain conditions, entertainment expenses may be eligible for reimbursement.

(3) Authorized travelers can request either a travel advance for the projected cost of authorized travel, or advance billing directly to the town for registration fees, air fares, meals, lodging, conferences and similar expenses.

Travel advance requests are not considered documentation of travel expenses. If travel advances exceed documented expenses, the traveler must immediately reimburse the town. It will be the responsibility of the CAO to initiate action to recover any undocumented travel advances.

(4) Travel advances are available only for special travel and only after completion and approval of the travel authorization form.

(5) The travel expense reimbursement form will be used to document all expense claims.

(6) To qualify for reimbursement, travel expenses must be:

(i) Directly related to the conduct of the town business for which travel was authorized; and

(ii) Actual, reasonable and necessary under the circumstances.

The CAO may make exceptions for unusual circumstances.

Expenses considered excessive will not be allowed.

(7) Claims of five dollars (\$5.00) or more for travel expense reimbursement must be supported by the original paid receipt for lodging, vehicle rental, phone call, public carrier travel, conference fee and other reimbursable costs.

(8) Any person attempting to defraud the town or misuse town travel funds is subject to legal action for recovery of fraudulent travel claims and/or advances.

(9) Mileage and motel expenses incurred within the town are not ordinarily considered eligible expenses for reimbursement.

**4-104. Travel reimbursement rate schedules.** Authorized travelers shall be reimbursed according to the State of Tennessee travel regulation rates. The town's travel reimbursement rates will automatically change when the state rates are adjusted.

The municipality may pay directly to the provider for expenses such as meals, lodging and registration fees for conferences, conventions, seminars and other education programs.

**4-105. Administrative procedures.** The town adopts and incorporates by reference--as if fully set out herein--the administrative procedures submitted

by MTAS to, and approved by letter by, the Comptroller of the Treasury, State of Tennessee. A copy of the administrative procedures is on file in the office of the recorder.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>State law reference

*Tennessee Code Annotated*, § 6-54-904, requires a town to notify the comptroller in writing that it has adopted the MTAS policy, including the date of such adoption.