

CITY OF FORSYTH – COMMUNITY INFORMATION FLYER

2026 BUSINESS LICENSE ORDINANCE SUMMARY

FOR-PROFIT BUSINESSES-Who Must Have a Business License

- All businesses, trades, contractors, services, occupations, and avocations operating within Forsyth city limits must obtain a yearly business license.
- License Cost: \$50 per business or occupation.
- License Term: Valid for 12 months beginning July 1.

Towing & Wrecker Services

- Must maintain a valid Forsyth business license.
- Annual fee: \$50.

All Contractors

- Must be licensed to perform work in the city.
- Workers' Compensation: Certificate or notarized exemption affidavit (Missouri WC 134).
- General Liability Insurance: Minimum \$1,000,000 per occurrence and \$2,000,000 aggregate.
- If performing work with the City or on City property, the City of Forsyth must be listed as certificate holder and additionally insured.

License Requirements

- Certificate of No Tax Due (Missouri DOR)
- Missouri Retail Sales License (if applicable)
- Grease trap pumping proof (as applicable)
- Backflow prevention test (as applicable)
- Yearly Fire & life safety inspection; approval (Schedule)

Penalties & Enforcement

- \$10 late fee after August 1.
- Operating without a license may result in closure, fines of \$50–\$250, and/or up to 10 days in jail.
- Licenses may be denied or revoked for ordinance violations, non-compliance, or public nuisance issues.

Effective Date

- Effective immediately upon adoption in 2026.

NON-PROFIT & GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS

Who Must Register

- All nonprofit organizations and government agencies operating in Forsyth must register with the city.

Fees

- No business license fee required.

Documentation & Compliance

- Annual fire & life safety inspection required (Ordinance 580).
- Nonprofits must provide 501(c)(3) documentation.
- Exempt professionals under Missouri Statute 71.620 (ministers, teachers, doctors, lawyers, etc.) must register but do not pay license fees.