



# City of Visalia Fire

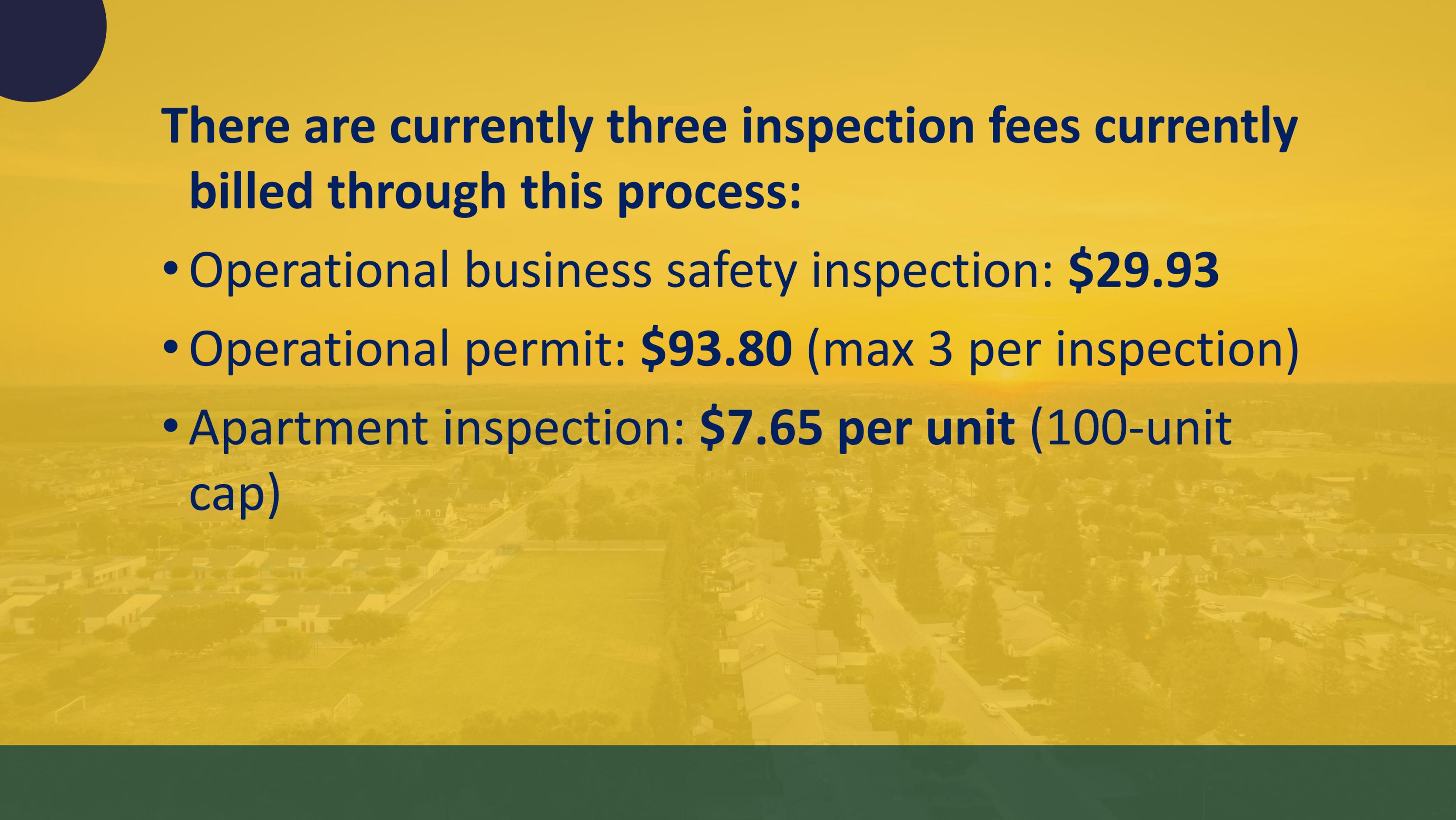
## Department rates and fees

***Presented by:***

*Visalia Fire*

# Fire inspection overview

- **Operational business safety inspections have been performed throughout our community for many years, with records dating back to the early 1990's.**
- **Operational permits are business processes that present increased hazards and require a more comprehensive inspection.**
- **Last year there were 3,528 inspections performed throughout our community. These inspections include businesses, apartments, schools, hotels, hospitals etc.**



**There are currently three inspection fees currently billed through this process:**

- Operational business safety inspection: **\$29.93**
- Operational permit: **\$93.80** (max 3 per inspection)
- Apartment inspection: **\$7.65 per unit** (100-unit cap)

## Fees

- The current fee rates were established in 2010 and have been raised by CPI annually since FY 2013/2014.
- When established it does not appear as though the operational business safety inspection fee fully accounted for personnel costs, particularly engine company staff.

- **Key structural changes**
- Single \$82 fee simplifies billing
- Max 3 operational permit fees per inspection
- Remove apartment 100-unit cap

Fee type	Current	Proposed
Operational business inspection	\$29.93	<b>\$82.00</b>
Reinspection	\$29.93	<b>\$82.00</b>
Operational permit	\$93.80	<b>\$82.00</b>
Apartment (per unit)	\$7.65	<b>\$12.09</b>
Apartment cap	100-unit max	<b>Remove cap</b>

## Fee calculation basis

- \$82 = Average cost of 3-person engine company for 15 minutes
- Same rate applied for:
  - Business inspections
  - Reinspections
  - Operational permits
- Apartment fee based on:
  - 30-minute triplex inspection
  - $\$36.28$  inspector cost  $\div$  3 units =  $\$12.09$  per unit

## Important note

- Fees do NOT include:
  - Travel time
  - Administrative support costs

## Regional comparison

- Visalia proposed fees remain competitive
- Other cities range significantly higher:
  - Fire inspections up to \$625
  - Reinspections up to \$1,097

## Benefits

- Improved cost recovery
- Streamlined billing process
- Reduced staff administrative time

## Fee comparison

	Visalia	Fresno	Tulare	Hanford
Fire inspection	\$82.00	\$144.00 - \$625.00	\$103.00	\$149.00-\$298.00
Reinspection	\$82.00	\$137 - \$1,097	\$103	\$164 - \$187
Operational permit	\$82.00		\$103	\$108
Apartments (per unit)	\$12.09	Flat rate \$161 - \$291	1 – 20 units \$150	

## **Staff recommended motion**

- Move to adopt Resolution No. 2026-11 adopting the proposed fee schedule, including the removal of the fee cap specific to apartment complex inspections.

# Thank You!

