The question has been asked, “Can a tow company separate the towing of a vehicle (equipment use) and labor rates for purposes of billing?”

The simple answer is no.

Arkansas Towing & Recovery Board, Rules & Regulations, Rule 1 Definitions: 1.12B LABOR prohibits charging a labor fee for the operation of a tow vehicle when engaged in a standard tow which is defined in Rule 1.15.

Rule 1.12B. “LABOR” additional manpower or time required to prepare a vehicle beyond the normal scope of a standard tow, may include but is not limited to site clean-up, tarping, or securing vehicle parts and contents.

Rule 1.15 “STANDARD TOW” any tow of a vehicle subject to registration in the State of Arkansas, removed from private property, accident scene, side of the roadway, etc., towed in a fashion regularly accepted as routine, to include regular preparation for the tow, response, hook-up, loading, unloading, and transportation back to facility within a reasonable operating perimeter.

While a labor rate can be charged for recovery efforts, extraordinary events and clean-up the rule operates on the assumption that a hired tow vehicle includes in its rate at least one driver. The Board as a practical matter functions under this premise as well.

For additional information regarding billing or the definitions the Board suggests contacting the ATRB staff for direction. 501/682-3801 or artowing@arkansas.gov.