

Ordinance Introduced by Councilor _____
on _____, 2025

Ordinance No. 04, 2025 Series
City of Caribou
County of Aroostook
State of Maine

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 17 General Assistance

Short Title: An ordinance Amending General Assistance Guidelines

The City Council of the City of Caribou, County of Aroostook, State of Maine, pursuant to the requirements of the City of Caribou Charter, Section 2.11 (1) does ordain the following:

Section I. Amendments to Ordinance

A. Appendix A of Chapter 17 of the Caribou City Ordinances is hereby amended to read as follows:

OVERALL MAXIMUMS

| # in Household | | 2020/2021 | 2021/2022 | 2022/2023 | 2023/2024 | 2024/2025 | 2025/2026 |
|----------------|--|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| One | | \$649.00 | \$655.00 | \$692.00 | \$742.00 | \$766.00 | \$803.00 |
| Two | | \$710.00 | \$717.00 | \$754.00 | \$812.00 | \$842.00 | \$871.00 |
| Three | | \$831.00 | \$840.00 | \$881.00 | \$951.00 | \$1,043.00 | \$1,085.00 |
| Four | | \$1,119.00 | \$1,132.00 | \$1,185.00 | \$1,281.00 | \$1,421.00 | \$1,486.00 |
| Five | | \$1,200.00 | \$1,254.00 | \$1,353.00 | \$1,464.00 | \$1,524.00 | \$1,569.00 |
| Six | | \$1,275.00 | \$1,329.00 | \$1,428.00 | \$1,539.00 | \$1,599.00 | \$1,644.00 |

Add \$75 for each additional person

B. Appendix B of Chapter 17 of the Caribou City Ordinance is hereby amended to read as follows:

The maximum amounts allowed for food are established in accordance with the U.S.D.A. Thrifty Food Plan. As of October 1, 2025, those amounts are:

2025-2026 FOOD MAXIMUMS

| Number in Household | Weekly Maximum | Monthly Maximum |
|---|----------------|-----------------|
| 1 | \$69.30 | \$298.00 |
| 2 | \$126.98 | \$546.00 |
| 3 | \$ 182.56 | \$785.00 |
| 4 | \$231.16 | \$994.00 |
| 5 | \$275.12 | \$1,183.00 |
| 6 | \$330.47 | \$1,421.00 |
| 7 | \$365.35 | \$1,571.00 |
| 8 | \$416.05 | \$1,789.00 |
| NOTE: For each additional person add \$218.00 per month. | | |

c. Appendix C of Chapter 17 of the Caribou City Ordinance is hereby amended to read as follows:

A listing of the maximum levels of assistance for housing (both heated and unheated)

| Number of Bedrooms | UNHEATED | | HEATED | |
|--------------------|----------|---------|----------|----------|
| | Weekly | Monthly | Weekly | Monthly |
| 0 | \$149 | \$640 | \$181 | \$779 |
| 1 | \$155 | \$667 | \$196 | \$844 |
| 2 | \$192 | \$826 | \$245 | \$1,054 |
| 3 | \$273 | \$1,174 | \$338 | \$1,451 |
| 4 | \$278 | \$1,196 | \$356 | \$1,529 |
| Recovery Residence | | | \$147.00 | \$633.00 |
| 26+ rooms | | | \$102.90 | \$443.10 |

D. Appendix D of Chapter 17 of the Caribou City Ordinance is hereby amended to read as follows:

NOTE: For an electrically heated dwelling also see Appendix E – Heating Fuel. But remember, an applicant is ***not automatically*** entitled to the “maximums” established – applicants must demonstrate need.

1) **Electricity Maximums for Household *Without* Electric Hot Water:** The maximum amounts allowed for utilities, for lights, cooking and other electric excluding hot water and heat:

| <u>Number in Household</u> | <u>Weekly</u> | <u>Monthly</u> |
|---|---------------|----------------|
| 1 | \$19.95 | \$85.50 |
| 2 | \$22.52 | \$96.50 |
| 3 | \$24.97 | \$107.00 |
| 4 | \$27.53 | \$118.00 |
| 5 | \$29.88 | \$128.50 |
| 6 | \$32.55 | \$139.50 |
| NOTE: For each additional person add \$10.50 per month | | |

2) **Electricity Maximums for Household *With* Electrically Heated Hot Water:** The Maximum amounts allowed for utilities, hot water, for lights, cooking and other electric uses excluding heat.

| <u>Number in Household</u> | <u>Weekly</u> | <u>Monthly</u> |
|---|---------------|----------------|
| 1 | \$29.63 | \$127.00 |
| 2 | \$34.07 | \$146.00 |
| 3 | \$39.67 | \$170.00 |
| 4 | \$46.32 | \$198.50 |
| 5 | \$55.65 | \$238.50 |
| 6 | \$58.68 | \$251.50 |
| NOTE: For each additional person add \$14.50 per month | | |

NOTE: When the dwelling unit is heated electrically, the maximum amount allowed for heating purposes will be calculated by multiplying the number of gallons of fuel allowed for that month by the current price per gallon. When fuels such as wood, coal and/or natural gas are used applicant shall be considered to need more than 7 tons of coal per year, 8 cords of wood per year, 126,000 cubic feet of natural gas per year, or 1,000 gallons of propane.

E. Appendix H of Chapter 17 of the Caribou City Ordinance is hereby amended to read as follows:

Funeral Maximums

Burial Maximums

The maximum amount of general assistance granted for the purpose of burial is **\$1,620**. Additional costs may be allowed by the GA administrator, where there is an actual cost, for:

- The wholesale cost of a cement liner if the cemetery by-laws require one;
- The opening and closing of the grave site; and
- A lot in the least expensive section of the cemetery. If the municipality is able to provide a cemetery lot in a municipally owned cemetery or in a cemetery under municipal control, the cost of the cemetery lot in any other cemetery will not be paid by the municipality.

The municipality's obligation to provide funds for burial purposes is limited to a reasonable calculation of the funeral director's direct costs, not to exceed the maximum amounts of assistance described in this section. Allowable burial expenses are limited to:

- Removal of the body from a local residence or institution
- A secured death certificate or obituary
- Embalming
- A minimum casket
- A reasonable cost for necessary transportation
- Other reasonable and necessary specified direct costs, as itemized by the funeral director and approved by the municipal administrator.

Cremation Maximums

The maximum amount of assistance granted for a cremation shall be **\$1,125**. Additional costs may be allowed by the GA administrator where there is an actual cost, for:

- A cremation lot in the least expensive section of the cemetery
- A reasonable cost for a burial urn not to exceed \$55
- Transportation costs borne by the funeral director at a reasonable rate per mile for transporting the remains to and from the cremation facility.

This ordinance, being introduced on September 15, 2025 and a public hearing being held on October 20, 2025 was duly passed by the City Council of the City of Caribou, Maine, this ____ day of _____ 2025.

Courtney Boma, Mayor

Jody Smith, Deputy Mayor

Daniel Bagley, Councilor

Jennifer Kelley, Councilor

Tamara Lovewell, Councilor

Joan Theriault, Councilor

Paul Watson, Councilor

Attest: _____
Danielle Brissette, City Clerk