



### COURT COSTS AND FEES CHART

The chart below shows court costs in effect as of **January 1, 2025**<sup>1</sup> and applies to all costs assessed or collected on or after that date, except where otherwise noted, and unless subject to the “waiver exception” of G.S. 7A-304(g). Changes are indicated in **blue**.

<b>CRIMINAL COURT COSTS</b> G.S. 7A-304, unless otherwise specified		<b>AMOUNT</b>
An additional summary chart of criminal costs has been attached to this cost chart as “Appendix - Criminal Costs Summary.” The appendix summarizes the basic costs common to all dispositions in a particular trial division. It does <b>not</b> include additional cost items that must be assessed depending on individual factors for each case (e.g., FTA fee, supervision fees, jail fees, etc.) or for specific offenses of conviction (e.g., improper equipment or impaired driving); those costs are assessed separately. Neither does it apply to offenses for which the relevant statute assesses specific costs or prohibits the imposition of costs.		
<b>DISTRICT COURT</b> (including criminal cases before magistrates)		
General Court of Justice Fee. G.S. 7A-304(a)(4).	General Fund	146.55
	State Bar Legal Aid Account (LAA)	.95
		147.50
Facilities Fee. G.S. 7A-304(a)(2).		12.00
Telecommunications and Data Connectivity Fee. G.S. 7A-304(a)(2a).		4.00
LEO Retirement/Insurance. G.S. 7A-304(a)(3) & (3a).		7.50
Indigent Defense Fee. G.S. 7A-304(a)(3c).		5.00
<b>TOTAL</b>		176.00
Chapter 20 Fee. G.S. 7A-304(a)(4a) (for conviction of any Chapter 20 offense).		+10.00 <sup>2</sup>
DNA Fee. G.S. 7A-304(a)(9) (criminal offenses, only; does not apply to infractions).		+2.00
Plus \$5.00 service fee for each arrest or service of criminal process, including citations and subpoenas. G.S. 7A-304(a)(1).		+5.00
<b>SUPERIOR COURT</b>		
General Court of Justice Fee. G.S. 7A-304(a)(4).	General Fund	153.55
	State Bar Legal Aid Account (LAA)	.95
		154.50
Facilities Fee. G.S. 7A-304(a)(2).		30.00
Telecommunications and Data Connectivity Fee. G.S. 7A-304(a)(2a).		4.00
LEO Retirement/Insurance. G.S. 7A-304(a)(3) & (3a).		7.50
Indigent Defense Fee. G.S. 7A-304(a)(3c).		5.00
<b>TOTAL</b>		201.00 <sup>3</sup>
Chapter 20 Fee. G.S. 7A-304(a)(4a) (for conviction of any Chapter 20 offense).		+10.00
DNA Fee. G.S. 7A-304(a)(9) (criminal offenses, only; does not apply to infractions).		+2.00
Plus \$5.00 service fee for each arrest or service of criminal process, including citations and subpoenas. G.S. 7A-304(a)(1).		+5.00

<b>OTHER CRIMINAL FEES</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
Appointment of Counsel Fee. G.S. 7A-455.1.	75.00
Certificate of Relief Fee. G.S. 15A-173.2(h). <sup>4</sup>	50.00
Civil Revocation Fee (impaired driving CVRs, only). G.S. 20-16.5(j).	100.00
Community Service Fee. G.S. 143B-1483	250.00
Continuous Alcohol Monitoring (CAM) Fee (offenses prior to Dec. 1, 2012). G.S. 20-179. <sup>5</sup>	Varies <sup>6</sup>
Continuous Alcohol Monitoring (CAM) Fee (parolees, only). G.S. 15A-1374. <sup>7</sup>	Varies
Criminal Record Check Fee. G.S. 7A-308(a)(17).	25.00
Dispute Resolution Fee. G.S. 7A-38.3D and G.S. 7A-38.7.	60.00 per mediation
Expunction Fee, petitions under G.S. 15A-145, 15A-145.1, 15A-145.2, 15A-145.3, 15A-145.4, and 15A-145.	175.00
Expunction Fee, petitions under G.S. 15A-145.8A	\$52.50
Expunction Fee, petitions under G.S. 15A-145.5. <sup>8</sup>	175.00
Expunction Fee, petitions under G.S. 15A-146. <sup>9</sup>	175.00
Failure to Appear Fee. G.S. 7A-304(a)(6). Note: May be assessed only once per case.	200.00
Failure to Comply Fee. G.S. 7A-304(a)(6).	50.00
House Arrest with Electronic Monitoring (EHA) One-Time Fee. G.S. 15A-1343(c2).	90.00
House Arrest with Electronic Monitoring (EHA) Daily Fee. G.S. 15A-1343(c2).	4.48/day
Impaired Driving Fee. G.S. 7A-304(a)(10). <b>Note:</b> Applies only to offenses committed on or after December 1, 2011.	100.00
Improper Equipment Fee. G.S. 7A-304(a)(4b). <sup>10</sup>	50.00
Installment Payments Fee. G.S. 7A-304(f).	20.00
Jail Fees (pre-conviction). G.S. 7A-313.	10.00 per 24 hours or fraction thereof
Jail Fees (split sentence served in local facility). G.S. 7A-313 and G.S. 148-29; S.L. 2023-134, § 19A.3.	40.00 per day
Limited Driving Privilege Fee – Petitions under G.S. 20-20.1. At petition/Application: If Issued: (G.S. 20-20.2).	CVD Costs +100.00
Limited Driving Privilege Fee – Other than under G.S. 20-20.1. If Issued: <b>Note:</b> If there is no underlying conviction in the county, charge civil filing fees as explained on form AOC-CV-350. (G.S. 20-20.2)	+100.00
Pretrial Release Services Fee (county). G.S. 7A-304(a)(5). <sup>11</sup>	15.00
Satellite-Based Monitoring Fee for Sex Offenders. G.S. 14-208.45.	90.00
State Crime Lab Fee. G.S. 7A-304(a)(7).	600.00
Local Government Lab Fee. G.S. 7A-304(a)(8).	600.00
Private Hospital Lab Fee. G.S. 7A-304(a)(8a). <sup>12</sup>	600.00
State Lab Analyst Expert Witness Fee. G.S. 7A-304(a)(11). <sup>13</sup>	600.00
Local Lab Analyst Expert Witness Fee. G.S. 7A-304(a)(12). <sup>14</sup>	600.00
Private Hospital Analyst Expert Witness Fee. G.S. 7A-304(a)(13). <sup>15</sup>	600.00
State Crime Lab Digital Forensics Fee. G.S. 7A-304(a)(9a).	600.00
Local Lab Digital Forensics Fee. G.S. 7A-304(a)(9b).	600.00
Seat Belt Violations (adult, front seat) and Motorcycle/Moped Passenger/Helmet Violations. G.S. 20-135.2A and G.S. 20-140.4.	25.50 fine + costs below:
General Court of Justice Fee. G.S. 7A-304(a)(4).	147.50 (Dist.) 154.50 (Sup.)
Telecommunications and Data Connectivity Fee. G.S. 7A-304(a)(2a).	4.00
Process Issuance Fee. G.S. 20-135.2A(e)(3) and G.S. 20-140.4(c)(3).	1.50
Sheriffs' Pension Fee. G.S. 20-135.2A(e)(4) and G.S. 20-140.4(c)(4).	1.50
<b>TOTAL</b>	180.00 (Dist.) 187.00 (Sup.)
Seat Belt Violations (adult, rear seat). G.S. 20-135.2A(e).	No Costs 10.00 fine only
Supervision Fee. G.S. 15A-1343, G.S. 15A-1368.4, and G.S. 15A-1374	40.00 per month
Worthless Check Program Fee. G.S. 7A-308(c). <sup>16</sup>	60.00

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<sup>1</sup> During the 2024 short session, no changes were made to criminal court costs and fees.

<sup>2</sup> The Chapter 20 fee does not apply to offenses with specified costs or exempt from costs.

<sup>3</sup> When a person convicted of a felony in Superior Court has made a first appearance in District Court, all Superior Court costs plus the District Court General Court of Justice fee shall be assessed. G.S. 7A-304(a)(4).

<sup>4</sup> This fee is assessed and collected by the clerk when a petition for a certificate of relief is filed. It does not apply to a petition filed by an indigent. The fee shall be waived by the clerk upon a showing by the petitioner that the one-time fee was previously paid, even if paid in another county.

<sup>5</sup> When CAM is imposed as a condition of probation for an impaired driving offense committed prior to December 1, 2012, this fee is paid to the clerk in the county of conviction and remitted to the monitoring vendor; for offenses committed on or after that date, fees for CAM imposed as a condition of probation (for any offense) are paid directly to the monitoring vendor by the defendant (or by the local government entity agreeing to pay them), not to the clerk. G.S. 15A-1343.3(b). The fees listed here apply only to CAM as a condition of probation; there appears to be no authority to assess fees against the defendant for CAM as a condition of pretrial release.

<sup>6</sup> The exact fee amount will depend on the monitoring vendor. For offenses committed prior to December 1, 2011, the total CAM fees assessable against the defendant as a condition of probation for an impaired driving offense are capped at \$1,000.00. G.S. 20-179(h1). For offenses committed on or after that date, there is no cap. S.L. 2011-191, §1 (repealing the cap language from G.S. 20-179(h1)).

<sup>7</sup> Parolees' CAM fees paid pursuant to G.S. 15A-1374(d) are paid to the clerk in the county of conviction. The exact fee amount will depend on the monitoring vendor. The clerk transmits any CAM fees collected from a parolee to the vendor. Note that this provision applies only to parolees; there is no statutory provision for the clerk to receipt CAM fees from an offender on post-release supervision.

<sup>8</sup> For this expunction, the entire fee amount is remitted to the State's General Fund. It is not apportioned between the NCDPS and the NCAOC.

<sup>9</sup> This fee should be assessed for petitions to expunge charges that resulted in dismissals pursuant to either a deferred prosecution or a conditional discharge.

<sup>10</sup> For a comprehensive list of improper equipment fees, please see "Appendix – Chapter 20 Improper Equipment Offenses."

<sup>11</sup> The pretrial release services fee of G.S. 7A-304(a)(5) may be assessed upon conviction and remitted to a county providing pretrial release services if the defendant was accepted and released to the supervision of a county agency. This fee is separate from and in addition to any fees assessed directly by the county under G.S. 7A-313.1 when the defendant has received pretrial electronic monitoring by a county agency. If the defendant has been accepted and released to the supervision of a county agency that provides pretrial services that include electronic monitoring, the court should assess and receipt only the \$15.00 pretrial services fee upon conviction. Any fees assessed for electronic monitoring under G.S. 7A-313.1 must be paid directly to the county by the defendant.

<sup>12</sup> The Private Hospital Lab Fee should be assessed only when the defendant is convicted and the private hospital performed tests as part of an investigation that led to the defendant's conviction, and the tests were of the defendant's bodily fluid to determine the presence of alcohol or controlled substance. The Court also must find that the work performed is "the equivalent of the same kind of work performed by the North Carolina State Crime Laboratory under subdivision (7) of [G.S. 7A-304(a)]."

<sup>13</sup> The State Lab Analyst Expert Witness fee is assessed in addition to the State Crime Lab fee assessed under G.S. 7A-304(7) or G.S. 7A-304(9a), but the expert witness fee applies only when the expert witness: (i) is employed by the State Crime Lab; (ii) completed a chemical analysis pursuant to G.S. 20-139.1, a forensic analysis pursuant to G.S. 8-58.20, or a digital forensics analysis; and (iii) provided testimony about that analysis in the defendant's trial.

<sup>14</sup> The Local Lab Analyst Expert Witness fee is assessed in addition to the Local Crime Lab fee of G.S. 7A-307(a)(8), but the expert witness fee applies only when the expert witness: (i) is employed by a crime laboratory operated by a local government or group of local governments or a crime laboratory the services of which were paid for by a local government or group of local governments; (ii) completed a chemical analysis pursuant to G.S. 20-139.1, a forensic analysis pursuant to G.S. 8-58.20, or a digital forensics analysis; and (iii) provided testimony about that analysis in the defendant's trial.

<sup>15</sup> The Private Hospital Analyst Expert Witness Fee may be assessed in addition to the Private Hospital Lab Fee of G.S. 7A-304(a)(8a), but the fee applies only when the expert witness provides testimony at the defendant's trial about a chemical analysis conducted pursuant to G.S. 20-139.1.

<sup>16</sup> For districts that still operate a worthless check program, the clerk should continue to receipt the worthless check program fee of G.S. 7A-308(c) and remit it to the State. The amount of the fee remains \$60.00. In addition, G.S. 14-

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107.2 allows a community mediation center to assist the NCAOC and district attorneys by establishing a worthless check program in districts where such programs have not been established and to charge for its services as part of such a program. However, the fees for such services are not set by statute and are not to be receipted by the clerk. The center must assess its fees directly for users of its services in these cases. Further, the clerk should not assess the criminal mediation fee of G.S. 7A-38.7 when a community mediation center mediates a worthless check matter in the context of a pre-prosecution worthless check program. The clerk may receipt and disburse only the statutory program fee of G.S. 7A-308(c) and restitution to the check taker for the amount of the check plus any service charges and processing fees incurred or charged by the check taker.

## Appendix - Criminal Costs Summary Effective January 1, 2025

Category <sup>1</sup>	Total Amount	Amounts & Amount Descriptions			
District Court Infraction (IFC/IF_)	<b>181.00</b>	147.50	GCJ	5.00	Indigent Defense
		12.00	Facilities	5.00	Service of Process
		4.00	TCD		
		7.50	LEO Retirement		
District Court Infraction Chapter 20 Offense (IFTC/IFT_)	<b>191.00</b>	147.50	GCJ	5.00	Indigent Defense
		12.00	Facilities	5.00	Service of Process
		4.00	TCD	10.00	Chapter 20
		7.50	LEO Retirement		
District Court Misdemeanor (CRDC/CRD_)	<b>183.00</b>	147.50	GCJ	5.00	Indigent Defense
		12.00	Facilities	5.00	Service of Process
		4.00	TCD	2.00	DNA
		7.50	LEO Retirement		
District Court Misdemeanor Chapter 20 Offense (CRTC/CRT_)	<b>193.00</b>	147.50	GCJ	5.00	Indigent Defense
		12.00	Facilities	5.00	Service of Process
		4.00	TCD	2.00	DNA
		7.50	LEO Retirement	10.00	Chapter 20
Superior Court <u>without</u> First Appearance in District Court (CRSC/CRS_)	<b>208.00</b>	154.50	GCJ	5.00	Indigent Defense
		30.00	Facilities	5.00	Service of Process
		4.00	TCD	2.00	DNA
		7.50	LEO Retirement		
Superior Court <u>without</u> First Appearance in District Court Chapter 20 Offense	<b>218.00</b>	154.50	GCJ	5.00	Indigent Defense
		30.00	Facilities	5.00	Service of Process
		4.00	TCD	2.00	DNA
		7.50	LEO Retirement	10.00	Chapter 20
Superior Court <u>with</u> First Appearance in District Court (CRDS)	<b>355.50</b>	154.50	GCJ (Sup)	5.00	Indigent Defense
		147.50	GCJ (Dist)	5.00	Service of Process
		30.00	Facilities	2.00	DNA
		4.00	TCD		
		7.50	LEO Retirement		
Superior Court <u>with</u> First Appearance in District Court Chapter 20 Offense	<b>365.50</b>	154.50	GCJ (Sup)	5.00	Indigent Defense
		147.50	GCJ (Dist)	5.00	Service of Process
		30.00	Facilities	2.00	DNA
		4.00	TCD	10.00	Chapter 20
		7.50	LEO Retirement		

<sup>1</sup> These totals do not apply to offenses for which specific court costs are assessed, such as adult front seat belt offenses, G.S. 20-135.2A, or offenses that do not bear court costs, such as failure to burn headlights with wipers on, G.S. 20-129(a)(4). Nor do they include the \$50.00 that must be assessed for conviction of an improper equipment offense, per G.S. 7A-304(a)(4b), or the impaired driving fee of \$100.00 under G.S. 7A-304(a)(10).

<b>Category</b>	<b>Total Amount</b>	<b>Amounts &amp; Amount Descriptions</b>			
Superior Court Infraction Appealed from District Court for Trial De Novo (IFDA)	<b>374.50</b>	147.50	GCJ (Dist)	154.50	GCJ (Sup)
		12.00	Facilities (Dist)	30.00	Facilities (Sup)
		4.00	TCD (Dist)	4.00	TCD (Sup)
		7.50	LEO Retirement	5.00	Indigent Defense (Sup)
		5.00	Indigent Defense (Dist)		
		5.00	Service of Process		
Superior Court Infraction Appealed from District Court for Trial De Novo Chapter 20 Offense (IFTA)	<b>394.50</b>	147.50	GCJ (Dist)	154.50	GCJ (Sup)
		12.00	Facilities (Dist)	30.00	Facilities (Sup)
		4.00	TCD (Dist)	4.00	TCD (Sup)
		7.50	LEO Retirement	5.00	Indigent Defense (Sup)
		5.00	Indigent Defense (Dist)	10.00	Chapter 20 (Sup)
		5.00	Service of Process		
		10.00	Chapter 20 (Dist)		
Superior Court Misdemeanor Appealed from District Court for Trial De Novo (CRDA)	<b>378.50</b>	147.50	GCJ (Dist)	154.50	GCJ (Sup)
		12.00	Facilities (Dist)	30.00	Facilities (Sup)
		4.00	TCD (Dist)	4.00	TCD (Sup)
		7.50	LEO Retirement	5.00	Indigent Defense (Sup)
		5.00	Indigent Defense (Dist)	2.00	DNA (Sup)
		5.00	Service of Process		
		2.00	DNA (Dist)		
Superior Court Misdemeanor Appealed from District Court for Trial De Novo Chapter 20 Offense (CRTA)	<b>398.50</b>	147.50	GCJ (Dist)	154.50	GCJ (Sup)
		12.00	Facilities (Dist)	30.00	Facilities (Sup)
		4.00	TCD (Dist)	4.00	TCD (Sup)
		7.50	LEO Retirement	5.00	Indigent Defense (Sup)
		5.00	Indigent Defense (Dist)	2.00	DNA (Sup)
		5.00	Service of Process	10.00	Chapter 20 (Sup)
		2.00	DNA (Dist)		
		10.00	Chapter 20 (Dist)		

## Appendix - Chapter 20 Improper Equipment Offenses

Set out below is a table of Chapter 20 “improper equipment offenses.”

Effective for costs assessed or collected on or after August 1, 2011 (unless the waiver exception of G.S. 7A-304(g) applies for a process issued prior to that date), a defendant who is found guilty or responsible for an “improper equipment offense” under Chapter 20 must pay a fee of \$50.00 in addition to the standard Chapter 20 criminal/infracton costs amount. See G.S. 7A-304(a)(4b). The office of the Clerk of Superior Court will remit this additional \$50.00 to the State Treasurer for the support of the General Court of Justice. *Id.*

The Chief District Court Judges traditionally have limited “improper equipment offenses” on the list of waivable traffic offenses to equipment violations found in Part 9 of Article 3 of Chapter 20.<sup>2</sup> The judges have, however, distinguished “equipment violations” in Part 9 from “height, length, and width” violations in Part 9.<sup>3</sup> Using the waiver list as guidance, the NCAOC interprets the “improper equipment” fee to apply to any offense in Part 9 *other* than (i) violations relating to vehicle height, length, and width and (ii) violations that otherwise could be considered equipment violations, but for which the equipment element of the offense is derivative of the height, length, or width nature of the offense. An example of the latter would be violations of G.S. 20-117 (flags and lights at the end of loads), for which the equipment (the flag) is required only because of a load that has extended the overall length of the vehicle.

For each improper equipment offense, the table lists the statutory citation, the offense code description (or simply a brief description of the offense if there is no offense code for the violation), and the offense code (if one exists). Changes are indicated in **blue**.

Statute	Description	Offense Code
G.S. 20-116(g)	IMPROPER LOADING/COVERING VEH	4425
G.S. 20-117.1(a)	BUS, TRUCK, OR TRUCK TRACTOR MIRROR VIOLATION	None
G.S. 20-120	FLAT TRUCK OR TOBACCO TRUCK LOAD VIOLATION	None
G.S. 20-121.1(2)	NON-STANDARD VEH - EQUIPMENT VIOL	4581
G.S. 20-121.1(2a)	MODIFIED UTILITY VEH EQUIP	4854
G.S. 20-122	TIRE RESTRICTIONS EQUIP VIOL	4421
G.S. 20-122.1	UNSAFE TIRES	4462
G.S. 20-123	IMPROPER TOWING	4413
G.S. 20-123.1	IMPROPER STEERING MECHANISM	4423
G.S. 20-123.2	IMPROPER EQUIP - SPEEDOMETER	4418
G.S. 20-124	IMPROPER BRAKES	4488
G.S. 20-125	HORN AND WARNING DEVICE VIO	4404
G.S. 20-125.1	DIRECTIONAL SIGNALS EQUIP VIOL	4426
G.S. 20-126	MIRROR VIOLATION	4407
G.S. 20-127(a)	WINDSHIELD WIPER EQUIP VIOL	4490
G.S. 20-127(b1)	WINDSHIELD TINTING VIOL COMMERCIAL VEHICLE	5671
G.S. 20-127(d)	WINDOW TINTING VIOL	5596
G.S. 20-128	IMPROPER MUFFLER	4486
G.S. 20-128.1	EMISSIONS CONTROL VIOLATION	None

<sup>2</sup> See, e.g., the 2024 edition of Traffic Offenses for which Court Appearance May Be Waived (December 1, 2024), Item B.44., at: <https://www.nccourts.gov/documents/publications/current-waiver-lists>.

<sup>3</sup> See, e.g., the 2024 edition of Traffic Offenses for which Court Appearance May Be Waived (December 1, 2024), Item B.43., at: <https://www.nccourts.gov/documents/publications/current-waiver-lists>.

<b>Statute</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Offense Code</b>
G.S. 20-129(a) <sup>4</sup>	FAIL TO BURN HEADLAMPS	4445
G.S. 20-129(b)	DRIVE WITHOUT TWO HEADLAMPS	4492
G.S. 20-129(c)	MOTORCYCLE FAIL BURN HEADLAMP	4422
G.S. 20-129(d)	MOTORCYCLE FAIL BURN TAILLIGHT	4424
G.S. 20-129(d)	REAR LAMPS VIOLATION	4427
G.S. 20-129(e)	BICYCLE LIGHT VIOLATION	None
G.S. 20-129(f)	FARM TRACTOR OR OTHER VEHICLE LIGHT VIOLATION	None
G.S. 20-129(g)	BRAKE/STOP LIGHT EQUIP VIOL	4429
G.S. 20-129(h)	BACKUP LAMPS VIOL	4487
G.S. 20-129.1	ADDITIONAL LIGHTING EQUIP VIOL	4435
G.S. 20-129.2	MOBILE HOME LIGHTING VIOLATION	None
G.S. 20-130	SPOT LAMP OR AUXILIARY LAMP VIOLATION	None
G.S. 20-130.1(e)	USE OF RED OR BLUE LIGHT	5576
G.S. 20-130.2(a)	AMBER LIGHT VIOLATION	None
G.S. 20-130.3	WHITE LIGHT REAR – DRIVE FORWARD	4436
G.S. 20-131(a)	FAILURE TO DIM LIGHTS MEET VEH	4554
G.S. 20-131	HEADLAMP OR AUXILIARY LAMP VIOLATION (OTHER THAN FAILURE TO DIM LIGHTS UNDER CODE 4554)	None
G.S. 20-132	ACETYLENE LIGHTS VIOLATION	None
G.S. 20-134	NO LIGHTS ON PARKED VEHICLE	4481
G.S. 20-134(b)	RURAL LETTER CARRIER VEHICLE OR NEWSPAPER DELIVERY VEHICLE LIGHT VIOLATION	None
G.S. 20-135	DOOR, WINDOW, WINDSHIELD, WING, OR PARTITION GLASS VIOLATION	None
G.S. 20-135.2	FRONT SEAT BELT CONSTRUCTION OR INSTALLATION VIOLATION	None
G.S. 20-135.3	REAR SEAT BELT CONSTRUCTION OR INSTALLATION VIOLATION	None
G.S. 20-136	SMOKE SCREEN DEVICE VIOLATION	None
G.S. 20-136.2	AIR BAG INSTALLATION VIOLATION	None
G.S. 20-137.1(a)	FAIL TO SECURE PASSENGER UNDER 16	4472
G.S. 20-137.2	LAW ENFORCEMENT VEHICLE RESEMBLANCE VIOLATION	None

<sup>4</sup> The table does not include a violation of G.S. 20-129(a)(4) (offense code 4446), for failing to burn headlights when windshield wipers are in use, because the statute prohibits the assessment of court costs for that offense.