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SC Court of Appeals

THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
In The Court of Appeals

APPEAL FROM ANDERSON COUNTY
Court of Common Pleas

The Honorable R. Lawton McIntosh, Circuit Court Judge

Unpublished Opinion No. 2025-UP-147 (Ct. App. filed April 30, 2025)
Appellate Case No. 2024-000155

Robert Stro Snipes,

Appellant,

v.

City of Belton and VetCor of Spartanburg, LLC,

Respondents.

**RETURN TO RESPONDENT VETCOR OF SPARTANBURG, LLC'S
MOTION FOR COSTS ON APPEAL**

The Appellant respectfully requests that this Court deny the Motion for Costs, filed by the Respondent, VetCor of Spartanburg, LLC, on December 30, 2025, because the Appellant has limited income and is unable to afford said costs. As shown on a Financial Declaration that has been executed by the Appellant and attached hereto as Exhibit A, the Appellant is seventy (70) years old, retired, and his sole sources of income are a small pension and monthly Social Security benefits. Accordingly, the Appellant's gross monthly income is only \$2,380.00 per month, and his monthly expenses usually are greater than that amount. The Respondent, VetCor

of Spartanburg, LLC, is requesting more than double the Appellant's gross monthly income in costs, so payment of the same, in addition to his regular monthly expenses, would constitute an undue burden on the Appellant.

Alternatively, if the Court grants the Respondent's request for costs, the Appellant would respectfully request that the Court only award the sum of \$2,500.00 to said Respondent. The Respondent has requested \$5,000.00 in attorney's fees; however, the total allowable attorney's fees in this case should be limited to \$2,500.00 pursuant to South Carolina Appellate Court Rules. Rule 222(b), SCACR, sets the allowable attorney's fee award at \$2,500.00 for prevailing parties in this Court. Rule 222(e), SCACR, clarifies that this Court may award costs in cases like the instant case where the Supreme Court has denied a Petition for Writ of Certiorari. However, this provision should not be construed to authorize this Court to award an additional \$2,500.00 in attorney's fees pursuant to Rule 242(j), SCACR. Instead, that Rule provides that the Supreme Court may award of an additional \$2,500.00 in attorney's fees only in cases where a Petition for Writ of Certiorari has been granted.

Respectfully submitted,

January 8, 2026

s/ G. Lee Cole, Jr.

G. Lee Cole, Jr.

SC Bar Number 100352

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