

**TO:** Mayor Robinson and City Council

**FROM:** Jeffrey L. McCormick, Chief of Police

**SUBJECT:** Squad Car Replacement

**DATE:** December 1, 2016

**BACKGROUND**

One of the things I was tasked with when hired was the creation of a vehicle replacement schedule that addressed the issues of high mileage vehicles and extensive repairs to keep the fleet operational. Previously the squad cars had been replaced in mass every few years, creating a large bubble in the budgeting process. During the months between when I started and when the new vehicles arrived, the department spent the same amount of money as a new squad would cost, to keep the fleet operational. The plan I created has allowed us to avoid the costly repairs that added up in the past. The plan created a replacement rotation of the fleet that has worked very well with our capital plan. During the tight economic times the rotation time lengthened to five years which has resulted in higher maintenance than I had hoped. I annually modify our capital plan to be as accurate as I can in planning for replacements and am recommending that we move to a four year plan for rotation of the marked squads.

Marked Squad 452, a 2012 Utility, is due for replacement this year and currently has 96,200 miles on it. This is a planned replacement and has been budgeted for within the capital plan. The replacement vehicle will be another Ford Interceptor Utility which is used for the other marked squads in the fleet. This has proven to be a very good patrol vehicle and the advantages identified in 2011 have all proven themselves to be very significant improvements and has made the utility with its All-Wheel Drive (which has been great during the winters) very popular among our officers, and from talking with other Chiefs, the vehicle of choice for many police departments. Advantages identified included:

- Higher seating position meaning lateral entry of officers and a higher observation level while driving and parked.
- Large side windows for checking the blind-spot.
- Greater distance from floor to dash top, keeping the open computer screen below the windshield sightline (in the Crown Vic's it covered about  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the windshield height while open).
- Rear cargo interior storage area (keeps AED, Oxygen and all equipment at usable temperature during winter).
- Higher location of light bar provides increased visibility of emergency lights.

The squad to be ordered will be the 2017 Police Interceptor Utility, the same as the 2016 model which was a new body style, but the cost is less than \$300 more than that order.

The 2017 Ford Interceptor Utility as specified has an order price of \$29,083.95 on the State Bid Contract. This is the only vehicle we are planning to purchase in 2017.

I am requesting this now, to place the order in December to get a lead on the bulk of the orders are made after the New Year, when we placed our 2016 order, which took longer to get it into service.

**REQUESTED COUNCIL ACTION**

Motion and approval to purchase of a 2017 squad from the State Contract Vendor and authorize the Chief of Police to sign any contracts that may be required for that order.