

**TO:** Mayor Montgomery and City Council

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

**SUBJECT:** Squad Car Replacement

**DATE:** February 16, 2023

**BACKGROUND**

When I contacted the State Contract vendor to obtain a price quote to order in December 2022, I was advised that 2023 model orders were closed having only open for two weeks in June of 2022. I also learned that orders for the 2024 squads will also only be open for about 2 weeks and the exact time unknown but expected to be late spring or early summer. When I advised the previous City Council in December the City Administrator advised that for some ordered equipment it may be 2025 before delivery is available.

The planned replacement for marked squad 452 has been budgeted for within the capital plan. The replacement squad will be remaining a Ford Interceptor Utility which has proven to be a very good patrol vehicle and the advantages identified in 2011 have all proven themselves and has made the utility with its All-Wheel Drive (great during the winter) very popular among our officers. Advantages identified in 2011 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 State Contract vendor is Tenvoorde Ford of St. Cloud and the 2023 Ford Interceptor Utility pricing based on the specifications we used for 2021 squad has an order price of \$43,444 up \$8,478 from the 2021 model. The 2024 contract pricing has not been posted by the State yet, so the request does not place a set price as part of the motion, but State Contract is the best price we can get.

I am seeking City Council approval now for a 2024 Ford Interceptor Utility utilizing the State Contact to replace squad 452 so I can place the order as soon as orders are being taken.

**REQUESTED COUNCIL ACTION**

Motion and approval to place the order/purchase a 2024 Ford Interceptor Utility utilizing the State Contact Vendor and authorize the Chief of Police to sign any contracts that may be required for that purchase.