

TO: Mayor Montgomery and City Council

FROM: Jeffrey L. McCormick, Chief of Police

SUBJECT: Squad Car Replacement

DATE: November 28, 2023

BACKGROUND

As I advised the City Council at the last City Council Meeting, we are due to replace a squad car in 2024 and I had contacted the State Contract vendor to obtain a price quote. I was advised that there was no updated pricing and it may not be out until the ordering window opens. The City Administrator commented at the last meeting that the past few years have been hard on equipment replacement because the normal cycles of ordering and delivery have gone out the window.

In talking with the State Contract vendor, I learned that they expect the order window to open late January or beginning of February. I know however that those dates move at the whim of the manufacturer so I want to be ready regardless of when orders open. We will be replacing our 2018 squad which is 6 years old and has 106,000 miles and I expect it to have 115,000 if replaced in July. I base that off the expectation that once ordered a vehicle arrives in 120 days, which may not be a valid assumption given recent history of orders and delivery. The six-year planned replacement for the 2018 squad is budgeted for within the capital plan. Another issue that is unique to our fleet is we are the only department within the City without a garage for our vehicles. Which means our squads when in use are running almost the entire shift to keep the vehicle in a comfort range for the officers and electronic systems we utilize. That translates to a higher number of engine hours than just milage.

The replacement vehicle 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.
- 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 currently Ten Voorde Ford of St. Cloud and the contract pricing has not been posted by the State yet, but regardless the State Contract pricing is hard to beat.

As I advised the City Council at the last meeting, I feel that the best course is to have the City Council grant the approve to place the order in advance of the order window opening, so we are ready to order as soon as they begin taking orders.

REQUESTED COUNCIL ACTION

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