



CITY OF GULFPORT CITY COUNCIL MEETING NOTICE AGENDA MEMORANDUM

FROM: Robert Vincent, Police Department

DATE: October 20, 2020

AGENDA ITEM: 7.b

RESOLUTION NO: 2020-69

SUBJECT: Resolution No. 2020-69: A Resolution authorizing the City Manager to purchase four (4) replacement police vehicles and related equipment; providing authorization to sell the vehicles being replaced at auction; and providing for an associated budget amendment.

RECOMMENDATION: Authorize the purchase of three Dodge Chargers and one Ford Expedition, along with related equipment, to replace existing police vehicles; authorize the budget amendment to reflect insurance proceeds from a vehicle that was totaled in a collision; and authorize the sale of the vehicles being replaced.

BACKGROUND:

The replacement of police patrol vehicles is scheduled to ensure maximum reliability of essential, first-responder equipment. As previously approved by city council via their collective bargaining agreement, each sworn officer is assigned a vehicle, which is a common practice in most Tampa Bay area law enforcement agencies. The police department does not have any spare vehicles in its fleet. Replacing the vehicles (or passing them on to other city departments) when their powertrain warranties are expired at 5 years or 60,000 miles offers several benefits:

1. The reliability of the fleet is significantly enhanced.
2. Non-routine maintenance is covered by warranty at no cost to the city.
3. Auction sale value is significantly higher.

To ensure that the entire patrol fleet is rotated within this time period, 4-6 vehicles should be replaced each year. It should be noted that from the time council approves the purchase until the vehicles are delivered is typically 7-10 months.

ANALYSIS:

The ultimate potential demand of a patrol vehicle is a high-speed, long-duration pursuit. Although there is no industry standard for the definition of "pursuit-certified," there are only three manufacturers which advertise their vehicle specifically for use in police operations. Any other vehicle that we might consider putting into operation must be restricted from involvement in high-speed pursuits, as doing so could be dangerous and could increase the

city's liability exposure.

For 2020/2021, the following options are available:

Chevrolet Tahoe
Dodge Charger
Dodge Durango
Ford Explorer-based SUV
Ford F150
Ford Fusion-based sedan

Of these options, the Dodge Charger is the least expensive, both initially and over five years. It is also a consistent top performer in the Michigan State Police annual vehicle evaluation. Many other agencies are acquiring SUVs at a much higher rate. They have a higher acquisition cost, require more up-fitting equipment, and have much lower fuel economy. They may offer more headroom and shoulder room, but they do not have more hip or legroom than their sedan counterparts.

In consideration of Councilmember Thanos's request to consider electric and hybrid vehicles, it should be noted that two of the vehicles on the above list are available as hybrids. One of these, the Ford Fusion-based sedan, is simply too small to accommodate the prisoner partition with sufficient room to allow for prisoners to safely sit in the back seat. The other, the Ford Explorer-based SUV is operationally viable, but as noted in the attached table, it comes with a financial penalty.

There are no electric vehicles marketed by their manufacturers for law enforcement use in the United States. Should the council wish to consider this as an option, the least expensive vehicle available with sufficient size and performance capabilities is the Tesla Model 3. Again, it does not provide a short or long-term economic advantage, as indicated in the attached table.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

At this time, three patrol vehicles and one special service vehicle are due for replacement. The acquisition cost includes the base price and additional equipment such as video system, emergency lights & siren, consoles, switchgear, prisoner partition, etc. The attached table reflects the costs for each of the available alternatives.

Following staff's recommendation of replacing all four vehicles that have expired powertrain warranties in 2021, the total would be as follows:

Purchase (3) Dodge Charger LDDE48 from Alan Jay Chrysler total not to exceed \$80,000.00.
Procurement: Florida Sheriff's Association Contract # FSA20-VEL 28.0

Purchase (3) Installed Equipment from: Public Safety Supply total not to exceed: \$30,500.00

Procurement: Piggyback, City of Miami Contract #516388(21).

Purchase (3) vehicle/body camera systems from Watchguard total not to exceed \$20,000.00

Procurement: Sole source

Purchase (1) Ford Expedition SSV from Duval Ford total not to exceed \$36,000.

Procurement: Florida Sheriff's Association # FSA20-VEL 28.0

Purchase (1) Installed Equipment from: Public Safety Supply at a cost not to exceed:
\$8000.00

Procurement: Piggyback, City of Miami Contract #516388(21).

Total not to exceed: \$175,000

The funding sources will be local option sales tax (Penny for Pinellas) as well as insurance proceeds from a vehicle that was totaled in a collision. This will require a budget amendment to reflect and apply that revenue, as noted in the attached exhibit.

MOTION:

I move to approve/deny Resolution No. 2020-69 authorizing the city manager to purchase replacement police vehicles and equipment, as designated; to authorize the respective budget amendment; and to authorize the sale of the vehicles that are being replaced.

ATTACHMENTS:

[Contact the City Clerk's Office - Vehicle Cost Analysis.pdf](#)

[Item 7.b - Resolution No. 2020-69.pdf](#)

[Item 7.b - Resolution No. 2020-69 Exhibit.pdf](#)