

# Memo

**To:** Mayor Lewis, City Council  
**From:** Lisa E. Sherman, Chief of Police  
**Date:** July 3, 2019  
**Re:** New Patrol Vehicle Purchase

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As discussed in the budget workshop on May 20, 2019, it is essential that the department replace two (2) patrol vehicles in this new fiscal year. While we experimented with the option of a five (5) year-125,000-mile warranty agreement, we struggled to keep the vehicles on the road 24/7 once they reached mileage over 80,000 miles. While the warranties covered some of the issues, many that were attributed to wear and tear were left for us cover financially.

The bigger concern is the amount of down time while these vehicles are being repaired. Warranty work did not get immediate status at our local Ford vendor and thus vehicles sat at the shop for days, some for a couple of weeks without attention while Ford took other customers first. We don't have a fleet of cars to chose from and down time is critical to our response time and manpower availability to priority and critical calls for service. We must have all vehicles in-service and well maintained 24/7.

It has been past practice to set the replacement and rotation of the patrol vehicles on a schedule that best keeps patrol vehicles operable and at the highest safety assurances. Each year our risk management assessment focuses on the safety equipment and training we provide. This replacement keeps us in compliance with our municipal insurance risk management standards. We did look into the lease options for vehicles, but this would require a minimum purchase of 15 vehicles for the contract. This was obviously not an option. Any partnership with other agencies was also not an option per the lease company.

As outlined in the resolution for purchase, bids were solicited from those manufacturers that provide preferred vehicles. As you will recall in the past, the Dodge produced vehicles did not stand up to the rigors of our daily needs and there is no local dealer for purchase and maintenance.

The Chevrolet Tahoe provides the long-term comfort, space, and utility that we need in a vehicle that is on the road 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The 4-wheel drive will give us a vehicle that can hold up to the winter demands for accessibility and allows us the capability to tow our equipment trailers to our training facilities and scenes without fear of getting vehicles stuck or unable remove the heavy trailers from the areas we must access.

The Chevrolet bid is local from Team One and our current experience with them has been exceptional. We have not experienced any wait times or delay in maintenance of our previous 2014 Tahoe or the 2018 Tahoe that has been in service for the last year. There is no savings in the change over costs between the Ford and Chevrolet vehicle choice in that Ford has changed the Explorer model for 2020 and all equipment for both vehicles will have to be retrofitted or purchased new in order fit either purchase.

Based on the information and the research completed by our vehicle maintenance supervisor, I request that the purchase of the 2020 Chevrolet Tahoe pursuit rated vehicles be authorized and Team One Chevrolet be awarded the contract for the purchase. This purchase is within the approved budgeted amount in the FY19/20 expenditures approved by Council.