



# Memo

**To:** Columbus Council Members

**From:** Lt. Darrell Ward

**Date:** 06/11/2025

**Re:** Purchase of Squads with LESO funds

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Council Members,

The Police Department is requesting authorization to use approximately \$25,000 from the LESO asset disposal fund for the purchase of 4 used squads, partially equipped. These funds are currently available in the LESO account from the recent sale of some of the LESO assets we had. The current balance in that account is \$36,629. City funds are not necessary for this purchase.

I came before the council prior to starting this program with the goal of starting a take-home squad program. The goal of this program is to increase officer retention and to be able to recruit higher quality applicants in a hiring pool that is very competitive and driven by pay and benefits.

Since starting this program, funds have been received from the disposal of LESO assets and we are now able to proceed with the purchase of and partial outfit of squads. I have been in contact with B&B motorcar from Beaver Dam who specializes in used police equipment, specifically squads. B&B currently has 4 Ford Explorer Police Interceptors available for purchase. These cars have between approximately 80,000-110,000 miles on them and come partially equipped with police equipment which would help save initial start-up costs.

The current conversation would be that we pay B&B \$10,000/squad for a total of \$40,000. This deal includes the trade in of the 1998 Hummer XLC2 that we currently have in our possession, that is available for disposal, for an immediate and guaranteed value of \$15,000. This vehicle would then be taken to auction to try and sell it for greater than the guaranteed amount. Should the vehicle auction for more than the \$15,000 B&B would return the excess funds, minus their auction/processing fees. The net payment amount to B&B would be approximately \$25,000.

This purchase would cover the needed squads to begin the take-home squad program and additional equipment needs would be covered by future LESO assets disposal to finalize the start-up of the program. We will need to wait for additional asset disposal funds to fully equip them, but this purchase of the 4 squads is the first large step forward.